



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CONTENTS

ENGLISH.....	3
GCSE English	3
Advanced Level English Literature	4
Advanced Level Communication Studies.....	4
DRAMA	5
GCSE Drama.....	5
Advanced Level Drama And Theatre Arts	6
EXPRESSIVE ARTS	6
GCSE Expressive Arts	6
FILM STUDIES	7
Advanced Level Film Studies	7
MATHEMATICS	8
GCSE Mathematics.....	9
Advanced Level Mathematics.....	10
SCIENCE	12
GCSE Science.....	12
Advanced Level Biology	13
Advanced Level Chemistry	14
Advanced Level Physics.....	14
MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.....	16
FRENCH.....	16
GCSE French.....	17
Advanced Level French.....	17
GERMAN.....	18
GCSE German.....	19
Advanced Level German.....	20
HUMANITIES.....	22
GCSE Humanities.....	22
Geography.....	23
GCSE Geography	23
Advanced Level Geography	23
HISTORY	23
GCSE History	23
Advanced Level History	24
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.....	25
GCSE Religious Education	25
SOCIOLOGY	25
Advanced Level Sociology	25
PSYCHOLOGY	27
Advanced Level Psychology.....	27
TECHNOLOGY.....	29
GCSE Technology.....	29
Advanced Level Technology	30
INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY	32
GCSE Information Technology.....	32
Advanced Level Gce Applied Ict.....	33
BUSINESS STUDIES	33
GCSE Business Studies	33
Advanced Level Business Studies.....	34
ART	36

GCSE Art.....	36
Advanced Level Art.....	37
MUSIC	38
GCSE Music.....	38
Advanced Level Music.....	38
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	40
GCSE PE	40
Advanced Level Physical Education	41

ENGLISH

Year 7

In Year 7 pupils study a range of text, literary and non-literary. They write in a variety of styles: stories, poems, scripts, letters, diaries, reports and character studies. They learn to analyse their own writing and that of published writers. Speaking and listening work is monitored by continuous assessment and there is emphasis throughout the year on the writing of accurate English.

Students plan and draft their work in exercise books. Best pieces are completed on paper and kept in folders in school.

Year 8

In Year 8 pupils write in a variety of styles. They read short stories, novels and poetry (pre-and post-1900) and non-literary works such as diaries, letters and newspaper articles. Private reading is monitored with follow-up activities. In Speaking and Listening, pupils develop role-play and group presentation skills and read a play script.

Students plan and draft their work in exercise books. Best pieces are completed on paper and kept in folders in school.

Year 9

In Year 9 pupils study a range of texts, literary and non-literary. They write in a variety of styles: stories, poems, scripts, letters, diaries, reports and essays. Pupils prepare for their Key Stage 3 tests by studying a Shakespeare play. Speaking and Listening work is monitored by continuous assessment and there is emphasis throughout the year on the writing of accurate English.

Students plan and draft their work in exercise books. Best pieces are completed on paper and kept in folders in school.

GCSE ENGLISH

Year 10

During Year 10 pupils study a variety of texts as they prepare their coursework folders for both English and English Literature. This work includes prose, poetry and a Shakespeare play. Students will also produce both fiction and non-fiction pieces of writing over the course of the year, which also count towards their final assessment. The Speaking and Listening element is monitored by continuous assessment.

Year 11

By the beginning of Year 11, it is expected that most coursework will have been completed. Year 11, therefore, focuses on examination preparation for both English and English Literature. For English, students will study a booklet of pre-release material containing both media extracts and poetry from other cultures. For Literature, students will study a prose text, a drama text and a poetry anthology. Speaking and Listening will continue to be monitored by continuous assessment.

ADVANCED LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

AS Level

The three AS level modules cover the following areas:

- A Shakespeare play (coursework)
- A modern novel (examination)
- A poetry text and a drama text (examination)

A2 Level

The three A2 modules cover the following areas:

- A comparative study (coursework)
- A poetry text and a drama text (examination)
- A synoptic paper in which students will respond to various unprepared extracts on the theme of war (examination)

ADVANCED LEVEL COMMUNICATION STUDIES

The Communication Studies course encourages knowledge and understanding of a range of communication theories and forms in personal, cultural, national and global settings. The course develops students' personal communication skills and can enhance their performance in other subjects.

AS Level

Unit 1

Introducing Communication Practice (coursework: 40% AS marks, 20% A marks). Students use theory and practical communication skills to (1) research a topic on personal communication, (2) write the investigation and (3) prepare, present and review and oral presentation on the subject.

Unit 2

Texts and Meanings in Communication (examination: 30% AS marks, 15% A marks). Students develop the techniques needed for critical reading of communication texts and learn how meaning is produced through communication.

Unit 3

Themes in Personal Communication (examination: 30% AS marks, 15% A marks). Students explore the ways in which individuals communicate: person-to-person, in small groups and within the self.

A Level

Unit 4

Developing Communication Practice (coursework: 20% A marks). Students explore their knowledge of theory and practice by researching, drafting and producing a communication artefact, such as a leaflet or website.

Unit 5

Culture, Context and Communication (examination: 15% A marks). Students develop understanding of the ways in which communication transmits culture – through individuals, organisations, the media and constructed environments.

Unit 6

Issues in Communication (examination: 15% A marks). Students explore the key theories and debates about communication, including social and political controversies and implications of new technologies.

DRAMA

GCSE DRAMA

The nature of this course helps students develop communicative and key social skills and encourages the imagination through spontaneous improvisation, performance acting and movement.

There is a strong link with Drama and Personal Health and Social Education as students must learn and recognise how to empathise with characters who may be going through some emotional turmoil at a specific time within defined parameters.

Students will learn the basic drama techniques and vocabulary as a foundation. They are able to build upon this knowledge and study the course further through A level and beyond.

The written examination paper will give students the opportunity to develop their understanding and analysis of key play texts and contribute to their literacy attainment targets.

As students have to perform a great deal throughout the study of this course and are examined whilst performing, they should gain confidence in their ability to perform and in their responses to other group members as part of a team.

ADVANCED LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE ARTS

AS Level

In Year 12, students will study for the following units leading to an AS level award.

Unit 1

Exploration of Drama and Theatre. Students study two contrasting plays from a practical point of view and have to produce a coursework portfolio.

Unit 2

Text in Performance. In this unit, students will undertake a role within the production of a play. The students will be assessed on the effective use of performing or design skills.

Unit 3

Text in Context. This unit is a 2 hour written paper. Section A questions are based on an analysis of Unit 2. Section B questions are based on theatrical performances seen.

A Level

In Year 13, students will study for the following A2 units leading to the full A level award.

Unit 4

Devising. For this unit, students work on the process of devising an original piece of drama for presentation to an audience.

Unit 5

Text in Performance. This unit focuses on an in depth study of a play from the point of view of a director, designer or performer. The performance is seen by an external examiner.

Unit 6

A written paper based on Trojan women by Euripides and contrasting contemporary and Elizabethan styles of Drama presentation.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

GCSE EXPRESSIVE ARTS

This course encourages students to express their creativity within a protected environment. It is essential that students are passionate about a diverse range of art forms, as they will have the opportunity to embrace their creativity through formats such as Art, Drama, Music and Creative Writing.

Students are given the correct range of starting points to develop and explore their imaginative ideas through experimentation, until they arrive at a concept that they wish to carry forward into an artistic end product.

Students keep a full written log for each project that they undertake and this contributes to their final grade. It is hoped that this will serve not only as a resource to help them on their journey but also contributes to their literacy attainment targets.

FILM STUDIES

ADVANCED LEVEL FILM STUDIES

AS Level

Assessment: 40% coursework; 60% examination

The Year 12 course includes:

- Techniques used in film production
- The commercial cinema and Hollywood
- British and Irish cinema
- Critical reading of a wide range of films
- Practical work such as storyboarding

A2 Level

Assessment: 40% coursework; 60% examination

Students continuing the course in Year 13 (A2) will have the opportunity to research areas of special interest such as genre, director or star. They will also have the opportunity to undertake a practical project which might include film making, screenwriting or film journalism.

In addition, the course will include:

- Critical studies of a wide range of films
- Study of World Cinema
- Issues in film making such as censorship, film acting or extreme cinema

MATHEMATICS

Year 7

During Year 7 students follow a course based upon the National Numeracy Strategy Framework for mathematics. It covers topics from the four attainment targets: using and applying mathematics, number and algebra, shape and space and data handling.

The course allows students to:

- develop a positive attitude towards mathematics
- consolidate basic skills and meet appropriately challenging work
- think and communicate mathematically using precision and logic.
- appreciate the place of mathematics in society
- work co-operatively and independently using practice and investigative skills
- acquire a firm foundation for further study.

Student progress is monitored by assessments administered every three topics. These tests yield National Curriculum levels.

Year 8

During Year 8 students follow a course based upon the National Numeracy Strategy Framework for mathematics. It covers topics from the four attainment targets: using and applying mathematics, number and algebra, shape and space and data handling.

The course allows students to:

- develop a positive attitude towards mathematics
- consolidate basic skills and meet appropriately challenging work
- think and communicate mathematically using precision and logic.
- appreciate the place of mathematics in society
- work co-operatively and independently using practice and investigative skills
- acquire a firm foundation for further study.

Student progress is monitored by assessments administered every three topics. These tests yield National Curriculum levels.

Year 9

During Year 9 students follow a course based upon the National Numeracy Strategy Framework for mathematics. It covers topics from the four attainment targets: using and applying mathematics, number and algebra, shape and space and data handling.

The course allows students to:

- develop a positive attitude towards mathematics
- consolidate basic skills and meet appropriately challenging work
- think and communicate mathematically using precision and logic.
- appreciate the place of mathematics in society
- work co-operatively and independently using practice and investigative skills

- acquire a firm foundation for further study.

Student progress is monitored by regular SAT style assessments. These tests yield National Curriculum levels. In May, students sit KS3 SAT examinations: Levels 3-5, Levels 4-6 or Levels 5-7.

GCSE MATHEMATICS

Year 10

In Year 10, students begin their GCSE course following an exam board syllabus which includes the four attainment targets of using and applying mathematics, number and algebra, shape and space and data handling. The depth of study is dependent upon the students working level at the end of KS3, although no final decision is made as to which tier students are entered in until closer to the end of year 11. (Foundation Tier: grades G to D, Intermediate Tier: grades E to B, Higher Tier: grades D to A*)

Students will either follow a modular or a linear course. Both courses are assessed by a terminal exam in Year 11, but the modular course also incorporates grade based module exams taken throughout Year 10 and 11, which contribute to the final GCSE grade. Module exams are taken in January and June of year 10 and March of Year 11.

All students complete two pieces of coursework which contribute 10% each to the final GCSE grade. An algebra piece will be completed in June of Year 10 and a data handling piece will be completed in September of Year 11.

Student progress is monitored by regular exam style assessments.

Year 11

In Year 11, students begin their GCSE course following an exam board syllabus which includes the four attainment targets of using and applying mathematics, number and algebra, shape and space and data handling. The depth of study is dependent upon the students working level at the end of KS3, although no final decision is made as to which tier students are entered in until closer to the end of Year 11. (Foundation Tier: grades G to D, Intermediate Tier: grades E to B, Higher Tier: grades D to A*)

Students will either follow a modular or a linear course. Both courses are assessed by a terminal exam in Year 11, but the modular course also incorporates grade based module exams taken throughout Year 10 and 11, which contribute to the final GCSE grade. Module exams are taken in January and June of Year 10 and March of Year 11.

All students complete two pieces of coursework which contribute 10% each to the final GCSE grade. An algebra piece will be completed in June of Year 10 and a data handling piece will be completed in September of Year 11.

Student progress is monitored by regular exam style assessments.

ADVANCED LEVEL MATHEMATICS

In Year 12 and 13, students will sit three examinations. These will be in the three subject areas of Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics.

Pure Mathematics

Pure Mathematics at AS level involves extending knowledge of topics such as algebra and trigonometry and learning new ideas such as calculus. Pure mathematics serves an important foundation for other branches of mathematics, particularly mechanics and statistics.

Mechanics

The study of mechanics is learning how to mathematically describe the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them. Students learn the technique of mathematical modelling, i.e. of turning a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods.

Statistics

Students learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions about it. The range of probability problems introduced for GCSE is extended by using new mathematical techniques studies on the pure mathematics course.

AS Level

Students will study Core Mathematics C1 and C2 and Mechanics M1. Each module will result in a 90 minute, equally weighted examination.

Core Mathematics C1

Algebra and functions; co-ordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane; sequences and series; differentiation; integration.

Core Mathematics C2

Algebra and functions; co-ordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane; sequences and series; trigonometry; exponentials and logarithms; differentiation; integration.

Mechanics 1

Mathematical models in mechanics; vectors in mechanics; kinematics of a particle moving in a straight line; dynamics of a particle moving in a straight line or a plane; statics of a particle; moments.

A2 Level

Students will study core mathematics C3 and C4 and Statistics S1. Each module will result in a 90 minute, equally weighted examination.

Core Mathematics C3

Algebra and functions; trigonometry; exponentials and logarithms; differentiation; numerical methods.

Core Mathematics: C4

Algebra and functions; co-ordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane; sequences and series; differentiation; integrations; vectors.

Statistics S1

Mathematical models in probability and statistics; representation and summary of data; probability; correlation and regression; discrete random variables; discrete distributions; the normal distribution.

SCIENCE

Year 7

During Year 7, pupils study the following topics:

Safety in the Laboratory, Simple Chemical Reactions, Solar System, Energy Resources, Environment and Feeding Relationships, Particles, Electrical Circuits, Variation and Classification, Solutions, Separation and Purification Techniques, Cells, Reproduction, Acids and Alkalis, Sound.

Practical work is an integral part of many of these topics. Pupils are encouraged to work safely as they make observations, obtain evidence and analyse results.

Year 8

During Year 8, pupils study the following topics:

Atoms and Elements, Light, Food and Digestion, Compounds, Mixtures, Rocks and Weathering, Respiration, Heat, Forces, Photosynthesis, Magnetism and Ecology.

Practical work is an integral part of many of these topics. Pupils are encouraged to work safely as they make observations, obtain evidence and analyse results.

Year 9

During Year 9, pupils study the following topics:

Microbes and disease; reactions of metals and metal compounds; gravity and space; inheritance and selection; patterns of reactivity; energy and electricity; fitness and health; environmental chemistry; pressure and moments; plants for food; using chemistry.

Practical work is an integral part of many of these topics. Pupils are encouraged to work safely as they make observations, obtain evidence and analyse results.

GCSE SCIENCE

The Science course followed at GCSE level is a modular one, with the following modules being studied:

Humans as Organisms, Maintenance of Life, Inheritance and Selection, Environment, Metals, Earth Materials, Chemical Change, Structures and Bonding, Energy, Electricity, Forces, Waves and Radiation.

Module examinations take place in November, March and June in Year 10 and in November for Year 11. In addition, Year 11 have two final examinations in June.

Practical work during the course contributes 20% to the final grade. The main skills assessed are Planning, Obtaining, Analysing and Evaluating Evidence.

ADVANCED LEVEL BIOLOGY

AS Level

In Year 12/13, students will study for the following units, leading to an AS level award:

Unit 1

Molecules and Cells (examination)

Unit 2

Exchange, Transport and Reproduction (examination)

Unit 3

Energy and the Environment (examination)

Teacher assessed investigation based on work covered in Units 1-3.

A2 Level

In Year 13, students will study for the following A2 units, leading to the full A level award:

Unit 4

Respiration and Co-ordination (examination)

plus

Option Module C – Human Health and Fitness

Unit 5

Genetics, Evolution and Biodiversity (examination)

Unit 6

Synoptic papers (examination)

Teacher/examination board assessed investigation or written alternative examination.

ADVANCED LEVEL CHEMISTRY

AS Level

In Year 12, students will study the following units leading to an AS level award:

Unit 1

Foundation Chemistry 1 (examination: 30% AS mark and 15% A mark). This unit includes structure, bonding, the periodic table and the mole

Unit 2

Foundation Chemistry 2 (examination: 30% AS mark and 15% A mark). This unit studies aspects of physical and inorganic chemistry.

Unit 3

Foundation Chemistry 3 (examination: 25% AS and 12.5% A mark; practical: 15% AS and 7.5% A mark).

This unit covers introductory organic chemistry. The practical examination is included as part of this unit.

A2 Level

In Year 13, students will study for the following A2 units leading to the full A level award:

Unit 4

Further Chemistry 1 (examination: 15% A marks). Covers further physical and organic chemistry.

Unit 5

Further Chemistry 2 (examination: 20% A marks). Studies thermodynamics and further inorganic chemistry.

Unit 6

Further Chemistry 3 (Synoptic) (examination: 10% A marks; practical: 5% A marks).

This unit has no formal content of its own. The written and practical examinations draw on work covered in units 1 to 5.

ADVANCED LEVEL PHYSICS

AS Level

In Year 12, students will study for the following units leading to an AS level award:

Unit 1

Foundation Physics (examination: 35% AS, 17.5% A marks). Motion, forces, energy concepts, DC, electricity, information and communication.

Unit 2

Waves and Nuclear Physics (examination: 35% AS, 17.5% A marks). Properties of waves and the particles that make the atom.

Unit 3

Externally Set Practical Exercises (practicals: 30% AS, 15% A marks). Three practicals based on the work covered in Units 1 and 2.

A2 Level

In Year 13, students will study for the following A2 units, leading to the full A level award.

Unit 4

Further Physics (examination: 15% A marks).

Further development of work covered in Year 12.

Unit 5

Fields and their Applications (examination: 20% A marks).

About magnetic and electrical fields.

Unit 6

Externally Set Practical Exercises (practicals: 15% A marks).

Two practicals based on the work covered in Units 1 to 5.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

FRENCH

Year 7

The topics covered in Year 7 relate to the Areas of Experience in the National Curriculum. They cover: self, family and description of appearance and character; where you live; your room; animals; hobbies and leisure time; food and drinks; school.

Maximum use of French is made to develop pupils' listening, speaking, writing and reading skills in each of the topic areas.

Year 8

The topics covered in Year 8 relate to the Areas of Experience in the National Curriculum. They cover: illness; healthy living and sport; what you can do in the town; finding your way; weather; telling the time; clothes; TV and cinema; invitations; describing what you did at the weekend; cafes; daily routine.

Maximum use of French is made to develop pupils' listening, speaking, writing and reading skills in each of the topic areas.

Year 9

The topics covered in Year 9 relate to the Areas of Experience in the National Curriculum. They cover household chores; festivals; travel; past holidays; pocket money; part-time jobs; communication; exchanges; environment; future plans.

Maximum use of French is made to develop pupils' listening, speaking, writing and reading skills in each of the topic areas.

French as a second foreign language (Year 9)

The topics covered relate to the Areas of Experience in the National Curriculum. They cover: family and description of appearance; where you live; your room; animals; hobbies and leisure time; food and drinks; directions and what to do in a town; money; telling the time; weather and countries you would like to visit; school; parts of the body; illness and health; past and future tense.

Maximum use of French is made to develop pupils' listening, speaking, writing and reading skills in each of the topic areas.

GCSE FRENCH

Year 10

The topics covered in Year 10 relate to the AQA specification. They cover:

Theme 1 - My World

Self; family and friends; hobbies; home and local environment; daily routine; school; future plans.

Theme 2 – Holiday Time and Travel

Tourism, holidays and services.

Theme 3 – Work and Lifestyle

Home life, healthy living, part-time jobs and work experience.

Students write two pieces of coursework as well as practising listening, reading and speaking skills.

There is an opportunity for students to participate in an exchange to Liffre.

Year 11

The topics covered in Year 11 relate to the AQA specification. They cover:

Theme 3 – Work and Lifestyle

Leisure and shopping.

Theme 4 – The Young Person in Society

Character and relationships; environment; education, careers and future plans; social issues; choices and responsibilities.

Students also write two further pieces of coursework and practise their speaking, listening and reading skills for GCSE.

Students are encouraged to participate in the exchange programme to Liffre to develop their speaking and comprehension skills.

ADVANCED LEVEL FRENCH

AS Level

Students are prepared for the Edexcel examination. General topic areas include (i) 'day to day matters' (food, diet, health, transport, travel & tourism, current affairs and media); (ii) 'society' (relationships, family, the generations, youth concerns, social issues, leisure and the arts); (iii) 'the working world' (education, training and employment, business and industry, information technology).

Students will take three modules in the summer term:

Unit 1
Listening and Writing

Unit 2
Reading and Writing

Unit 3
Prepared Oral Topic involving a topic chosen by the student.

Maximum use of French is made to develop listening, reading, speaking and writing skills with emphasis on bridging the gap between GCSE and A-level grammar and extension of vocabulary.

Students will visit the Lycee Francais in London and will have the opportunity to visit the Christmas markets in Lille.

A2 Level

Students are prepared for the final three units to be taken in the summer term.

Unit 4/1
Oral discussion – students debate a controversial issue, leading into further discussion.

Unit 5/2
Coursework – this involves two pieces of extended French writing in chosen topics based on the culture/society of France

Unit 6
Listening & writing, reading & writing, writing in registers
Maximum use of French is made to develop the four skills and extend knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

GERMAN

Year 7

The topics covered in Year 7 relate to the Areas of Experience in the National Curriculum. They cover: self, family and description of appearance and character; where you live; your room; money and leisure.

Maximum use of German is made to develop pupils' listening, speaking, writing and reading skills in each of the topic areas.

Year 8

The topics covered in Year 8 relate to the Areas of Experience in the National Curriculum. They cover: TV; describing your town; directions; transport; plans for the weekend; describing a past weekend and holidays; weather; daily routine; household chores; pocket money; part-time jobs; appearance and character; relationships with parents.

Maximum use of German is made to develop pupils' listening, speaking, writing and reading skills in each of the topic areas.

Year 9

The topics covered in Year 9 relate to the Areas of Experience in the National Curriculum. They cover shopping; clothes; festivals; invitations; what you can do in the town; lost property; environment; illness and healthy living; future plans and jobs.

Maximum use of German is made to develop pupils' listening, speaking, writing and reading skills in each of the topic areas.

There will be opportunities to visit the German Christmas markets.

German as a second foreign language (Year 9)

The topics covered relate to the Areas of Experience in the National Curriculum. They cover: self and family; appearance; character; school; telling the time; where you live; food and drink; money; leisure; describing your town; directions; past weekend; weather; past and future tense.

Maximum use of German is made to develop pupils' listening, speaking, writing and reading skills in each of the topic areas.

Students will have the opportunity to visit the German Christmas markets.

GCSE GERMAN

Year 10

The topics covered in Year 10 relate to the AQA specification. They cover:

Theme 1 - My World

Self; family and friends; hobbies; home and local environment; daily routine; school; future plans.

Theme 2 – Holiday Time and Travel

Tourism, holidays and services.

Theme 3 – Work and Lifestyle

Home life, healthy living, part-time jobs and work experience.

Students will write two pieces of coursework as well as practising listening, reading and speaking skills.

There is an opportunity for students to participate in an exchange to Leipzig to develop their speaking and comprehension skills.

Year 11

The topics covered in Year 11 relate to the AQA specification. They cover:

Theme 3 – Work and Lifestyle

Leisure and shopping.

Theme 4 – The Young Person in Society

Character and relationships; environment; education, careers and future plans; social issues; choices and responsibilities.

Students also write two further pieces of coursework and practise their speaking, listening and reading skills for GCSE.

Students are encouraged to participate in the exchange programme to Leipzig to develop their speaking and comprehension skills.

ADVANCED LEVEL GERMAN

AS Level

Students are prepared for the Edexcel examination. General topic areas include (i) 'day to day matters' (food, diet, health, transport, travel & tourism, current affairs and media); (ii) 'society' (relationships, family, the generations, youth concerns, social issues, leisure and the arts); (iii) 'the working world' (education, training and employment, business and industry, information technology).

Students will take three modules in the summer term:

Unit 1

Listening and Writing

Unit 2

Reading and Writing

Unit 3

Prepared Oral Topic involving a topic chosen by the student.

Maximum use of German is made to develop listening, reading, speaking and writing skills with emphasis on bridging the gap between GCSE and A-level grammar and extension of vocabulary.

The exchange to the Gymnasium in Leipzig offers opportunities for students to develop their communication skills.

A2 Level

Students are prepared for the final three units to be taken in the summer term.

Unit 4/1

Oral discussion – students debate a controversial issue, leading into further discussion.

Unit 5/2

Coursework – this involves two pieces of extended German writing in chosen topics based on the culture/society of Germany.

Unit 6

Listening & writing, reading & writing, writing in registers

Maximum use of German is made to develop the four skills and extend knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

HUMANITIES

Year 7

All students will complete at least three of the following units:

- The Roman Empire
- Medieval Realms
- Christianity
- Ecosystems
- Energy
- Landforms
- What is History?
- What is Geography?

Year 8

All students will complete at least three of the following units:

- Britain, 1485-1750
- Shopping Patterns and Settlement
- Development
- Earthquakes and Volcanoes
- Sikhism

Year 9

All students will complete at least three of the following units:

- Resource Issues
- Environmental Issues
- The Era of the Second World War
- Sikhism
- Population and Development
- World War One

GCSE HUMANITIES

Integrated Humanities combines the disciplines of Economics, Geography, History, Religious Education, Political Education, Psychology and Sociology to examine five topics, all of which will have been studied by the end of Year 11. The topics are:

- Family and Society
- Culture and Beliefs
- Conflict and Co-operation
- The Environment
- One optional area of study

Students sit two written examinations at the end of the course and must produce a Personal Research Study.

GEOGRAPHY

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Students on this course will learn about “Change in the Human Environment”, “Managing the Physical Environment” and “Managing Economic Development”. They will also complete geographical decision making exercises related to the three areas above. Students will also start a piece of practical geographical enquiry in Year 10 to be submitted as coursework during Year 11.

ADVANCED LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

AS Level

Unit 1

Changing Landforms and their Management (examination: 33.3% ‘AS’; 16.7% ‘A’ marks). River environments; Coastal environments.

Unit 2

Managing Change in Human Environments (examination: 33.3% ‘AS’; 16.7% ‘A’ marks). Rural environments; Urban environments.

Unit 3

Environmental Investigation (investigation: 33.3% ‘AS’; 16.7% ‘A’ marks). Students collect data from a group visit made in the local area. Data collected by the group is used by the students to write up individual investigations.

A2 Level

Unit 4

Global Challenge (examination: 15% ‘A’ marks). Atmospheric processes, ecosystems under threat, global population and migration, globalisation and the global economy.

Unit 5

Researching Global Futures (examination: 15% ‘A’ marks). (i) Managing hazardous environments (exam with pre-release material); (ii) Feeding the world’s people (externally moderated report based on pre-release titles).

Unit 6

Synoptic with pre-release resources (examination: 20% ‘A’ marks). Issues analysis involving problem solving and decision making skills on a topic which combines work covered in Units 1, 2 and 4.

HISTORY

GCSE HISTORY

History Modern World History, Syllabus B (AQA) covers events in Europe from the outbreak of WW1 1914 to the beginning years of the Cold War 1950. Depth studies include Nazi Germany and Russia/USSR from 1917-1939.

For the coursework element, students must produce two written assignments based on race relations in the USA post 1945 and the history of women 1900 to the present day.

Students will sit two written examinations at the end of the course. Each examination is one hour and 45 minutes long.

Year 10

In Year 10, students study the content for Paper 1: Conflict in the modern world; Examining the causes of international conflicts from WWI to WWII and the Cold War. Students also examine the impact of WWI on Britain and Britain's role in the defeat of Germany. One of the coursework questions on the history of women is also completed in Year 10.

Year 11

In Year 11, students complete the second part of the coursework requirements by studying civil rights in the USA. Students then move on to depth studies of Russian and German history from 1914-45 for the Paper 2 examination on Governments in Action.

ADVANCED LEVEL HISTORY

Advanced Level History mainly examines Modern History, covering events of the last two hundred years. The course considers this period from a British, European and World perspective and examines the social, religious and cultural issues which have arisen. The examining body is OCR.

AS Level

Unit 1

Document Studies 1774-1945; Nazi Germany 1933-45 (1 hour examination: 40%). This unit considers how effectively Hitler established and consolidated Nazi authority, how popular Hitler and the Nazis were, and the extent to which the Nazis transformed German society.

Unit 2

English History 1780-1964; The age of Pitt and Liverpool 1783-1830 (45 minute examination: 30%). This unit considers the role of Pitt the Younger in politics and his contribution to the challenges of the French Revolution, the survival of Lord Liverpool during the radical changes of 1812-1822, and the Tory Governments of 1822-1830.

Unit 3

Russia 1894-1917 (45 minute examination: 30%). This unit examines the problems and challenges faced by Tsar Nicholas II of Russia and how he was able to survive the 1905 revolution; the stability of the Russian state in the period 1906-14, and the reasons for two revolutions taking place in Russia during 1917.

A2 Level

Unit 4

Historical Investigation (1 ½ hour examination: 30%). Roosevelt's America 1920-41. This option is concerned with interpreting the domestic and foreign pressures which affected the USA during the inter-war years and the responses which were attempted. We will examine in detail Prohibition, the collapse of the economy from 1929-33, Roosevelt's "new deal" and the policy of isolationism.

Unit 5

Themes in History (1 ½ hour examination: 40%). Poor Law to Welfare State 1834-1948. This theme focuses on the changing approaches to the problems of social change and particularly poverty during this period. Students will examine the treatment of the poor, public health, urban growth and its effects, education and the introduction of the elements of the welfare state including national insurance, pensions and the NHS.

Unit 6

Independent Investigation or Open Book examination: 30%

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

GCSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Year 10

Students follow AQA Syllabus B, studying ideas relating to God, morality, truth, spirituality and contemporary issues.

Year 11

Students continue to follow the AQA syllabus B. Students will continue to build on the knowledge gained in Year 10, as well as exploring moral and social issues in more depth. The course will be assessed by modular exams in the summer term.

SOCIOLOGY

ADVANCED LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

AS Level

Unit 1

The Individual and Society (examination). Introducing the individual and society, culture and the formation of identities.

Unit 2

Culture and Socialisation (examination). Pupils will study two of the following topics and be examined on these: family, mass media, religion or youth culture.

Unit 3

Sociological Research Skills (examination). Basic concepts in research design, aspects of data collection, interpreting and evaluating data.

or

Unit 4

Research Report (practical). Pupils will complete a report on a piece of sociological research.

A2 Level

Unit 5

Power and Control (examination). Students will study two of the following topics and choose one of the topics as an examination question: Crime and Deviance; Education, or Health.

Unit 6

Applied Social Research Skills (examination). Research design and sociological theory; techniques of data collection; interpreting, evaluating and reporting data.

Unit 7

Personal Research (investigation). An extended piece of work on a sociological topic chosen by the candidate.

PSYCHOLOGY

ADVANCED LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

AS Level

Unit 1 (examination)

Introduction

A general introduction to psychology, covering the five key general approaches, including gender and biological factors which determine behaviour.

Unit 2 (examination)

Social and Cognitive Psychology

Focuses on social and cognitive behaviour, such as obedience and conformity and the reliability of eye-witness accounts and perception. Methods of research are examined.

Unit 3 (coursework)

Practical Investigation

This is an externally marked piece of coursework covering a practical investigation, based on Unit 1 and 2.

A2 Level

Unit 4 (examination)

Child Development and Options

Child development and moral development. Atypical behaviour such as schizophrenia and treatments associated with this.

Unit 5 (examination)

Revisits the five key approaches to Unit 4 and the methods of research associated with assessing and understanding them.

Unit 6 (coursework)

Investigation

An internally marked piece of coursework on a practical investigation based on Units 1 to 5.

TECHNOLOGY

Year 7

The year's course is divided into four modules. These modules are: Resistant Materials, Food Technology, Graphics and Textiles Technology. The pupils design and produce items which answer an identifiable need. Skills in making are developed through experiences with a variety of materials including wood, plastics, metal, graphics, food and textiles.

The course involves the safe use of equipment, research, evaluation and the use of ICT.

Year 8

The year's course is divided into four modules. These modules are: Resistant Materials, Food Technology, Graphics and Textiles Technology. The pupils design and produce items which answer an identifiable need. Skills in making are developed through experiences with a variety of materials including wood, plastics, metal, graphics, food and textiles.

The course involves the safe use of equipment, research, evaluation and the use of ICT.

Year 9

The year's course is divided into four modules. These modules are: Resistant Materials, Food Technology, Graphics and Textiles Technology. The pupils design and produce items which answer an identifiable need. Skills in making are developed through experiences with a variety of materials including wood, plastics, metal, graphics and food.

The course involves the safe use of equipment, research, evaluation and the use of ICT.

GCSE TECHNOLOGY

Year 10

The syllabus is designed to provide opportunities for investigation, designing, making and evaluation, which focus on one material area, either Resistant Materials, Graphic Products, Food Technology or Textiles Technology. These activities will be related to industrial practices and processes.

The course involves the safe use of equipment, research, evaluation and the use of ICT.

Year 11

Students are given topic areas to research into taken from the exam board course work specification. Once students have chosen their focus areas they use knowledge, skills and information gained in Year 10 to produce GCSE folder work and practical project. This folder work and final made product is worth 60% of students final grade.

Each student will be supplied with in house produced coursework guidelines. These guidelines contain coursework information, prompts, relevant information and a breakdown of when each aspect of work is due. Once final projects are completed, focused revision based on pre reading material is then carried out.

ADVANCED LEVEL TECHNOLOGY

AS/A2 Product Design is an extension of GCSE Technology particularly Graphics, Textiles and Resistant Materials. It uses prior knowledge and understanding to build upon and develop awareness of the wider world of design applications and technologies available.

The course is broken up into three units per year and the structure and study is:

AS Level

Unit 1

Industrial and commercial products and practices (30% AS mark and 15% A mark). This unit develops an understanding of products and industrial practices by detailed 'product analysis'.

Unit 2

Coursework project (40% AS mark, 20% A mark). Major project, more depth and detail than GCSE Technology project.

Unit 3A

Materials, components and systems. Develops understanding of materials, their properties and classifications and manufacturing processes.

Unit 3B

Design in society (30% AS mark, 15% A mark). Develops awareness of design and technology impacts on society.

A Level

Unit 4A

Materials, components and systems. Understanding new materials, smart materials and selection of materials.

Unit 4B 1

Design in society (15% A mark). Understanding of wider issues of design, including economics, consumer interests, marketing and conservation.

Unit 5

Coursework project (20% A mark). In depth major coursework project with high quality practical outcomes.

Unit 6

Design and technology capability (15% A mark). Analysis of pre-release material and development of ideas for final exam.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Year 7

Information Communication Technology involves the use of a range of computer applications to solve problems. The topic areas covered in this course are word processing, desktop publishing, spreadsheets, databases and multimedia software used to plan and deliver presentations. At the end of Year 7 students should be able to retrieve, generate and present information in a variety of contexts.

Year 8

Information Communication Technology involves the use of computer applications to present work and solve problems. The topic areas covered in the course are word processing, desktop publishing, multimedia presentations, spreadsheets and databases. Pupils in Year 8 will show evidence that they have the necessary practical skills across a range of different software packages. They will carry out project work where the aim is for them to demonstrate that a good knowledge and understanding of the different software packages they have used has been achieved.

Year 9

Information Communication Technology involves the use of computer applications to present work and solve problems. In Year 9, pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of word processing, desktop publishing, spreadsheets, databases and multimedia software. By the end of Year 9, students should be independent and confident users of ICT.

GCSE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Year 10

The aims of this course are to enable students to choose, use and design information and communication systems to carry out a range of tasks and to solve problems. Through studying the course, they have the opportunity to develop a broad and balanced practical experience of the range of information and communication systems and their applications. The course requires students to study the theory of ICT including: computer systems, communications technology and information management, networks, computer technology, legal and social effects of ICT.

During the course, two items of coursework must be submitted to the Board. This comprises a Board set assignment in Year 10 and a major project in Year 11. Coursework involves providing ICT solutions to realistic situations and together can contribute up to 60% of their final mark.

Year 11

In Year 11, pupils will prepare a major project, worth 30% of the final mark. Pupils need to propose an ICT solution in the form of a report containing analysis, implementation, testing, user guide and evaluation sections.

This differs from the Year 10 Board set assignment in that pupils:

- can choose from a number of titles
- need to produce an integrated solution
- need to produce a user guide

Examination

The 90 minute Summer examination accounts for 40% of the final mark. Pupils will be tested on their knowledge of software applications and their uses, types of hardware, networks and implications of ICT on society and the work of work.

ADVANCED LEVEL GCE APPLIED ICT

The overall aim of the specification is to encourage candidates to develop an understanding of the principles of problem solving using ICT and of the range of applications of ICT and the effects of their use, and to apply this understanding when developing ICT solutions to problems.

The course is designed to develop an understanding of the fundamentals of ICT and to provide the knowledge and skills suitable for participation in an evolving information-based society.

AS Units

1. Using ICT to communicate (project)
2. How organisations use ICT (external examination)
3. ICT solutions for individuals and society (project)

A2 Units

1. Working to a brief (external examination)
2. Developing and creating websites (project)
3. Numerical modelling using spreadsheets (project)

Each of these six units has equal weighting.

BUSINESS STUDIES

GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

Year 10

On this course, pupils study the nature and activities of business organisations in social, economic and political contexts. The syllabus is divided into the following sections: External Environment, Ownership and

Control, Aims and Objectives, Management of People, Finance, Production and Marketing.

Year 11

In Year 11, pupils continue to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in the key areas of:

- The External Business Environment
- Business Ownership and Control
- Business Aims and Objectives
- Management of People
- Finance
- Production
- Marketing

The Summer examination is worth 80% of the final mark.

Coursework is worth 20% of the final mark. Students choose from a number of titles and must submit work in the form of a formal report. In order to sit the examination and achieve a GCSE grade the coursework project must be completed.

ADVANCED LEVEL BUSINESS STUDIES

AS Level

Unit 1

Businesses, their objectives and environment (examination: 30% AS, 15% A marks).

This foundation unit introduces students to the internal organisation and external environments of organisations.

Unit 2

Business Decisions (examination: 30% AS, 15% A marks).

Students develop understanding of how problems are tackled and decisions arrived at in organisations.

Unit 3

Business Behaviour (examination: 40% AS, 20% A marks).

Students develop understanding of how organisations behave in relation to each other and their customers.

A2 Level

Unit 4

Further Marketing (examination: 15% A marks)

Continuing from work covered in Year 12, students acquire more specialist knowledge and skills in this field and look more closely at various marketing strategies concerned with goods and services.

Unit 8

Project (coursework: 15% A marks)

Students investigate a real business problem in a local organisation and produce a 4000 word report as to how this can best be tackled.

Unit 10

Business Strategy (examination: 20% A marks)

The synoptic examination tests a student's ability to draw on all the work covered to address business issues and tackle problems.

ART

Year 7

Pupils are given the opportunity to experience different approaches to art, craft and design in order to develop visual perception. They work in a variety of areas of study to include drawing and painting from observation and imagination, collage and mixed-media projects. They are introduced to the work of artists, crafts people and designers in order to develop their appreciation of artists from different times, cultures and places in relation to their own work.

Year 8

The course aims to develop a broad-based understanding of the nature of Art and Design. The pupils will work in a variety of areas of study, for example: drawing and painting, oil pastel, printing and textiles. Themes include Colour, Tone, Form and Pattern. The pupils will also gain an outline understanding of different artistic movements as part of their coursework, for example: Egyptian Art, Celtic Art and Pop Art.

Year 9

Pupils are given then opportunity to experience different approaches to art, craft and design in order to develop visual perception. They work in a variety of areas of study to include drawing and painting from observation and imagination, collage and three-dimensional projects. They continue to study the work of artists, crafts people and designers in order to develop their appreciation of artists from different times, cultures and places in relation to their won work, for instance, Expressionism and Pop Art.

GCSE ART

The GCSE course aims to develop a broad based understanding of the nature of Art and Design by stimulating abilities and critical faculties, developing the ability to identify and solve artistic problems by organising a work journal of ideas into a practical outcome.

Pupils will look at the work of artists, craftspeople and designers in order to develop their appreciation of artists from different times, cultures and places in relation to their own work.

The course comprises three elements: two units of coursework and an externally set examination.

As part of their course, pupils will undertake written studies in Years 10 and 11.

ADVANCED LEVEL ART

AS Level

The course is made up of three units:

Unit 1

Thematic Enquiry

The AS course will provide students the opportunity to explore the relationship between ideas and art and design practice. The unit is aimed at encouraging a personal response to a given starting point, working through a series of ideas and outcomes towards a well-considered conclusion.

Unit 2

Expressive Study

Students will develop an understanding of the expressive nature of the formal elements of art and design and make skilful connections between the formal elements and the disciplines of their chosen media. Students will record their discoveries and improve understanding by using a work journal.

Unit 3

Externally Set Assignment

A2 Level

The course is made up of three units:

Unit 4

Contextual Study

Students are required to research, evaluate, analyse and establish links between their own work and the broader art world, both historical and contemporary. The Contextual study could focus on the working methods of artists, designers, architects and crafts workers and their tools, equipments and materials.

Students may focus on the social, political and theoretical background to works of art, architecture, craft and design. The study could, for example, be a written and illustrated thesis of up to 3,000 words.

Unit 5

Creative Problem Solving

Students must develop their ability to approach and resolve problems that emerge as an inevitable part of creating art and design work. This unit encourages students to learn and employ the problem solving process in relation to creative activities.

This process involves identifying a creative problem(s), undertaking research, developing a range of alternative solutions, evaluating and realising a solution(s).

Unit 6

Externally Set Assignment

MUSIC

Year 7

The Year 7 course involves practical skills in performing, composing, singing and listening, with all pupils expected to perform on their own instrument and the keyboard. Composing and listening work will cover a wide range of classical, popular and World Music.

Year 8

Students continue to build on skills developed in Year 7. This includes individual and group performance on their own instrument as well as further development of their keyboard skills. Pupils will start to use ICT to further develop their compositions. Singing lessons become more focused on using harmony and listening work continues to cover a variety of different styles of music.

Year 9

During Year 9, pupils work in groups and as individuals on composing and arranging music from different genres. The development of ICT work continues, working towards GCSE level skills. Year 9 students are expected to be performing music more difficult than Level 5.

GCSE MUSIC

Year 10

During Year 10, pupils work on the OCR specification for GCSE Music which covers individual performance in a related style, composing for own instrument and other genres and analysing and appraising music through listening tasks. GCSE Music uses ICT for most of the composing tasks.

Year 11

During Year 11, pupils work independently on recording performances and compositions for their coursework deadline, which is at the end of the Spring term. Further listening work is done to prepare for the Listening exam and they use ICT to prepare for the Composing exam in April.

ADVANCED LEVEL MUSIC

AS Level

Students follow the Edexcel AS level course which integrates performing, composing and analysis of set works. Coursework includes a 6 minute recital and 4 further performances. They also have to compose for their own instrument and perform on the recording. Shorter composing exercises are studied and assessed in a final exam. The aural test and essay questions on the set work are assessed in a final three hour exam at the end of the course.

A2 Level

Students follow the Edexcel A2 level which allows a choice between performing a 20 minute recital or composing two pieces in a given style. All students must perform four extra pieces and study a composing technique carried on from AS in more detail. The final exams are as follows:

1. 3 hour composing techniques exam
2. 1 hour Aural exam
3. 2 hour Analysis exam, writing essays on the set works

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Year 7

Physical Education in Year 7 includes the following activities: athletics, cross-country, fitness, gymnastics, swimming and games.

Pupils will participate in at least three activities from basketball, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders, rugby and tennis.

Year 8

Physical Education in Year 8 includes the following activities: athletics, cross-country, fitness, gymnastics, trampolining, swimming and games.

Pupils will participate in at least three games activities from basketball, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders, rugby and tennis.

Year 9

Physical Education in Year 9 includes the following activities: swimming, gymnastics, cross-country, athletics, fitness, trampolining and games.

Pupils will participate in at least three games activities from rugby, soccer, basketball, netball, badminton, hockey and cricket.

Year 10 and 11 students who have not elected to take GCSE PE continue to participate in PE as a core subject.

Year 10 - Core

Pupils in Year 10 participate in a number of activities including swimming, fitness and trampolining. Each pupil also has the opportunity to experience at least two of the following games: basketball, rounders and tennis.

Year 11 - Core

At the beginning of the year, pupils have the opportunity to choose four activities, which enables them to perform and study sports in greater depth. Although the department is limited by facilities and staffing in the sports they can offer, students seem to appreciate the responsibility of devising their own curriculum.

GCSE PE

Year 10

Practical aspect: Throughout the two year course, pupils are assessed in four activities chosen from a wide variety of individual and team sports. They will also complete a personal exercise project.

Theoretical aspect: Pupils will be expected to have a good background knowledge of the various sports covered. They will also study health-related fitness, anatomy and physiology and sport within society. Assessment will be by written examination.

Year 11

Practical aspect: In the final year of their GCSE option, students continue to study a variety of team and individual activities. On completion of the course each pupil will be assessed in four of their best sports, which accounts for 50% of their final work.

Theoretical aspect: This aspect accounts for 40% of the overall grade in the form of a two hour written exam. A personal exercise programme, which the students perform and evaluate in written form, completes the overall assessment as it is work 10%.

ADVANCED LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

AS Level

There are two theoretical areas of study.

Unit 1

Physiology and Psychology (written examination paper: 40%)

Unit 2

The Historical, Social and Cultural Aspects of Physical Education (written examination paper: 30%)

The practical element is a relatively small percentage of the student's final grade.

Pupils choose one practical activity and their personal ability is assessed (18%)

A written, detailed personal exercise programme which students perform and evaluate (12%).

A Level

Marks from the AS assessment will account for 50% of the A2 grade. There are three further units of study at A2:

Unit 4

Physiology, biomechanical and psychological factors which influence performance (1½ hour examination: 15%)

Unit 5

Factors affecting the nature and development of elite performance/synoptic assessment (1½ hour examination: 17½%)

Unit 6

Practical demonstration/analysis of performance (10%)

Externally assessed synoptic assignment (7½%)