



# Key Stage 4 Options Booklet

2024 - 2026

*'Making the right choices for me*

**Key dates:**

Thursday 8th February - Options Evening

w/c 26th February - one-to-one interviews

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# Welcome to Students

Dear Year 9 Student,

Welcome to the Year 9 Options Booklet.

You are now embarking on one of the most important decisions of your educational career. Making sure you pick the Key Stage 4 courses that are right for you will make a big difference to the next two years and beyond. Getting it right will help you to finish Year 11 with a great set of GCSE results; getting it wrong will put that at risk. It may affect whether or not you are able to attend university. It might also mean the difference between securing the future job of your dreams or having to settle for something less than you want. So, it is important, and you should treat it as such.

This booklet sets out the decision-making process and provides you with some of the advice you will need in order to get it right.

Speaking to your parents, your teachers and your form tutor will also be important. These people know you best of all and can give you advice based on this. Also, there is no substitute for doing your own research. Please gather as much support as you can over the next few months to help you decide. Once your choices have been made and agreed upon, it will be very difficult to change them.

You will be working on the KS4 courses you choose throughout Year 10 and 11 (starting in September 2024). Key Stage 4 has always been demanding, however, the 'strengthened' GCSEs that the government have introduced, are even more challenging. This means you must now be even more confident that you like the subjects you have chosen, and that you know you can do well in them. If either of these is not true, you will find life at Preston Manor over the next two years more difficult.

I am very proud of every subject area and every teacher here at Preston Manor, and have great confidence in our staff. I know whichever courses you choose to do, you will receive the highest quality teaching and opportunities that rival any in other schools nationally. You will be supported at every stage by your Form Tutor, Director of Student Development (DSD) and all staff. However, you also need to know that being successful at Key Stage 4 demands maturity, and that maturity begins now by making sure you choose your courses wisely.

I very much look forward to supporting you with this process and the next exciting chapter in your life at Preston Manor.

Warm regards,

Mr D Tully  
Assistant Head

# Steps to Successful Choices

You will be able to choose from a wide range of courses and qualifications. You will need to choose your courses wisely depending on your interests, strengths and your aspirations beyond Year 11.

**STEP 1** Attend Options Evening on Thursday 19th January at 5.30pm. Ensure that the courses you choose are:

- Subjects you are interested in and those that fit with your future plans.
- Subjects you enjoy and will keep your attention for two years.
- Subjects you are being successful in (if you are studying them in Years 7-9). Use your latest Progress Report to check the subjects you are being successful in.

**STEP 2** Read about the different courses in this booklet and decide which ones best suit you by:

- Look at the topics covered. Does this interest you?
- Check what you can go on and study in the future. Might this be something you want to do?
- Look at the type of courses on offer BTEC, OCR National and GCSE and consider the different assessments of these courses and which will suit you best.

**STEP 3** Speak to your teacher and ask questions about the course. Speak with older students about their experiences of the course but remember this is only their view **NOT** yours!

**STEP 4** Complete the Options Form and bring it in for your Options Interview.

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**DO NOT** CHOOSE A SUBJECT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- You like the teacher
- Your friends are taking that subject
- You feel the subject is easier than others (all subjects are equally challenging)
- A member of your family studied it

## Useful Websites to help make your choices

<https://icould.com/stories/choosing-your-gcse-options/> – Brings together helpful advice about choosing GCSE options.

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) - Find out about universities and the course they can offer. You can also find out what subjects you need to have in order to get on their courses. If you know what qualifications you need at 18 years old, you can then work out what subjects you will need at the end of Year 11 when you are 16 years old.

Our School website also has information from your teachers [here](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Once I make my selection am I guaranteed my option choices?**

*No. We shall of course try our best to get you your first choice subjects however this may not be possible. If not enough students choose to do a subject, it may have close down and your reserve choice will be selected. If this happens you and your family will be informed by the school.*

### **What if I do not get my first choices?**

*Your reserve choice will then be selected. This is why you must pick a reserve choice in each block.*

### **What are English Baccalaureate subjects?**

*An English Baccalaureate is not a qualification. It is a term used to describe a number of GCSE subjects that the government considers to be highly valued. Top tier Universities desire this in order to apply due to the breadth of curriculum that it results in. Subjects include English, Maths, Science (including Biology, Chemistry, Physics), History, Geography, Computer Science, French and Spanish. The government is encouraging the study of 5 of these subjects (English, Maths, Science are compulsory, either History or Geography, either French or Spanish. Computer Science is an additional if desired).*

### **What if I do not know what I want to do in the future?**

*Keep your options open. Keep in mind that you might want to go to university or that you might want to do an apprenticeship etc. Select a range of subjects from across the curriculum e.g. a language, a humanities subject (History or Geography), an arts subject (Art, Graphics, Drama, Music) and one other subject such as PE, RS, Food, etc. Include in your selection what you are being successful in and what you enjoy doing, after all you are more likely to study harder in these subjects. Finally you may wish to pick a subject that is more practical than others that are 100% written exam. Subjects like Art, Graphics, IT, PE, Food and Media have assignments which are worth marks towards your final grade, which you must complete before your examination.*

### **Do I need to be able to read music or play an instrument to choose GCSE Music?**

*Being able to read music would be an advantage although the course will teach you this. You do however have to be prepared to study an instrument as part of your course. You can select which instrument, which could be your voice if you would like to sing. To develop your skills to the appropriate standard for the course you will be required to attend additional peripatetic lessons.*

### **I am struggling to choose which subjects to select. What do I do?**

*You are not alone. Speak to others to get their support. Speak to your teachers about whether you would be suited to their subject. Speak with your parents / carers, they know you well! Speak to students in the older year groups about the courses they study. You can also speak with your form tutor and our careers advisor.*

### **What are the differences between BTEC, OCR Cambridge National and GCSE?**

*Each of these types of qualification are equally as challenging and are of equal value to sixth forms, colleges and employers. The differences are about the way they are assessed. GCSEs are 100% exams that are taken at the end of Year 11. BTECs and OCR Cambridge Nationals have assignments throughout the two years that earn you marks towards your final grade. You still sit an exam in Year 11. This is ideal for students who may not perform at their best in exams.*

### **Can I change my options once I have chosen them?**

*You need to ensure that you are making your choices carefully, and research each subject carefully. Your options will be chosen in a one-to-one interview after the February half term. After this it is extremely difficult to change your choices and this will only occur in extraordinary circumstances.*

## Option Blocks

In terms of practicalities, you will see from the selection form on the last page of the booklet, that you must choose subjects from each box. **Please choose two possibilities in each option box, writing 1 beside your first choice and 2 beside your reserve choice.** We shall try our best to give you your first choice but this cannot be guaranteed which is why it is important for you to choose a reserve in each block. A form is at the end of the booklet.

For subjects with an “\*” next to them, teachers may have suggested you study this course because it would be of great benefit to you.

Some combinations of subjects are not allowed due to being similar in content. These are:

- Art & Design and Graphics
- IT and Computer Science

Don't hesitate to ask for help or advice – all your teachers are here to make sure you make the right decisions.

| Option A                  | Option B                               | Option C                               | Option D   |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Geography                 | Geography                              | Geography                              | Geography  |
| History                   | History                                | History                                | History  |
| Spanish                   | Spanish                                | Spanish                                | Spanish  |
| French                    | French                                 | French                                 | French   |
| Business                  | Business                               | Business                               | Business   |
| Computer Science          | Computer Science                       | Information Technology                 | Information Technology   |
| Graphics                  | Food Preparation & Nutrition           | Art & Design                           | Art & Design   |
| Religious Studies         | Graphics                               | Religious Studies                      | Music  |
| Drama                     | Media                                  | Performing Arts/Dance                  | Media  |
| PE GCSE                   | PE GCSE                                |  | PE GCSE  |
|                           | Personal Development & Employability * | Personal Development & Employability * | English as a Second Language <u>OR</u> ELC Step up to English* |
| Study Support (AQA UAS) * | Study Support (AQA UAS) *              | Study Support (AQA UAS) *              | Study Support (AQA UAS) *                                      |

### Community Languages

If you can speak and write in another language then you may have the opportunity to take an extra qualification in this language. Any students choosing to do this, must be prepared to use their own time, outside of school hours to prepare for this. The school will try to support this by entering you for the qualification and will provide you with examination papers to practise with. For groups of more than 10 the school will investigate into providing some after school sessions through the year to support their studies. Please discuss with Ms Fiedler if you have any questions.



# **Subject Information**

## **Compulsory subjects**

# English Language

**EXAM BOARD: AQA**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE English Language**

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## **WHAT IS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABOUT?**

You will study a range of both fiction and non-fiction texts and learn how to analyse these. You will develop your ability to explain the effect of different linguistic features as well as comment on the differences between Victorian Britain and 21st century Britain.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

Reading fiction texts.

Reading and comparing non-fiction Victorian prose with contemporary non-fiction prose.

Skills that you can develop include language analysis, comparative commentary and evaluation of the effectiveness of texts. You will also gain marks from creative writing and transactional writing skills questions.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

Paper 1 (50% of final marks)

Section A: Reading a fiction text

Section B: Creative writing (50%)

Paper 2 (50% of final marks)

Section A: Reading two non-fiction texts

Section B: Transactional writing (50%)

Speaking and Listening: A filmed presentation that will take place in class. A separate certificate will be awarded for this.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

DebateMate, School Magazine

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

English is considered a facilitating subject which can open up many different degree courses at university. You can go onto study A Level English Literature. The subject links with many different careers including Journalism, Teacher, Civil Service, Editorial, Law and Medicine.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Ms M Pabari [m.pabari@preston-manor.com](mailto:m.pabari@preston-manor.com)



# English Literature

**EXAM BOARD: AQA**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE English Literature**

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## **WHAT IS ENGLISH LITERATURE ABOUT?**

You will study a wide range of literary texts. You will gain a unique insight into those key texts. You will develop your ability to explore writers' perspectives of the world and explore how context informs the construction of narrative. You will have opportunities to evaluate these texts and negotiate how they help us make sense of the world around us.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

One Shakespeare text (*Macbeth*), a 19th Century Novel (*A Christmas Carol* OR *The Curious Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* OR *Jane Eyre*), a Modern Prose text (*An Inspector Calls* OR *Lord of the Flies* OR *The History Boys*) and a selection of poems (Power and Conflict cluster).

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

**Paper 1** (50% of final grade) 1 hour 30 mins  
Shakespeare & 19th Century Fiction,

- Two 30 mark questions on *Macbeth* and the 19th Century text taught in class

**Paper 2** (50% of final grade) 2 hours 15 mins  
Modern Prose & Poetry,

- Two 30 mark questions on a modern text taught in class and on Power and Conflict or Love and Relationships poetry
- Two questions on two unseen poems, the first being worth 24 marks and the second worth 8 marks

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

There will be some opportunities to attend the theatre to see productions of texts and listen to external speakers.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

English is considered a facilitating subject which can open up many different degree courses at university. You can go onto study A Level English Literature. The subject links with many different careers including Journalism, Teacher, Civil Service, Editorial, Law and Medicine.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Ms M Pabari [m.pabari@preston-manor.com](mailto:m.pabari@preston-manor.com)

# English Functional Skills

**EXAM BOARD: AQA**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: Entry level (1-3), Level 1, Level 2 Functional Skills**

The Functional Skills English course is run in Year 10 as an alternative pathway to English Language GCSE. In Year 10 students will study Functional Skills English at a level appropriate to each student and then will progress into a GCSE English Language course in Year 11.

## WHAT IS ENGLISH FUNCTIONAL SKILLS ABOUT?

The curriculum has been designed to inspire and motivate learners, providing appropriate opportunities to demonstrate their competence in English using real-world situations. With scheduled multiple opportunities for assessment this qualification is tailored for learners of all abilities.

The curriculum will enable learners to develop confidence in English skills, preparing them for progression into employment or further education and for use in their daily lives. The course includes reading, writing, speaking and listening units and assessments. The speaking, listening and communicating unit will emphasise the wider benefits that speaking and listening skills have for learners. It allows learners to develop their presentation and discussion skills around topics of their own choice. This will enable the full range of learners to engage in a way that is tailored to their experiences and areas of interest.

Writing tasks give learners the opportunity to produce texts of different lengths and for different audiences, building the skills needed to adapt responses to situations. Questions in reading are designed to truly assess a learner's ability to understand different texts, using question formats to minimise writing demand.

## WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?

- Reading, Writing, Speaking and listening

## HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?

| Paper 1: Reading  | + | Paper 2: Writing  | + | Non-exam assessment: Speaking, listening and communicating  |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>What's assessed</b><br>All the scope of study statements for Reading at the appropriate level  |   | <b>What's assessed</b><br>All the scope of study statements for Writing at the appropriate level  |   | <b>What's assessed</b><br>All the scope of study statements for Speaking, listening and communicating at the appropriate level  |
| <b>How it's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written exam: 1 hour</li><li>• Paper based</li><li>• Level 1 – 26 marks</li><li>• Level 2 – 30 marks</li><li>• 33.3% of the AQA Level 1 and 2 Functional Skills in English</li><li>• Set and marked by AQA</li></ul> |   | <b>How it's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written exam: 1 hour</li><li>• Paper based</li><li>• Level 1 – 27 marks</li><li>• Level 2 – 30 marks</li><li>• 33.3% of the AQA Level 1 and 2 Functional Skills in English</li><li>• Set and marked by AQA</li></ul> |   | <b>How it's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tasks set by centre in line with AQA guidelines</li><li>• Marked by centre using pass criteria</li><li>• 33.3% of the AQA Level 1 and 2 Functional Skills in English</li></ul> |
| <b>Questions</b><br>A mix of question styles, including multiple choice and short response. Learners should be given access to a dictionary   |   | <b>Questions</b><br>Two writing tasks, including 12 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar. Learners must not have access to dictionaries or any spelling or grammar aid   |   | <b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One presentation task</li><li>• One discussion task</li></ul>  |

## WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?

Ms M Pabari

[m.pabari@preston-manor.com](mailto:m.pabari@preston-manor.com)

Ms A Dynan

[a.dynan@preston-manor.com](mailto:a.dynan@preston-manor.com)

# Mathematics

**EXAM BOARD: Edexcel**

### **WHAT IS MATHS ABOUT?**

Maths is all around us, in everything we do. It is the building block for everything in our daily lives, including mobile devices, architecture (ancient and modern), art, money, engineering, and even sports. Since the beginning of recorded history, mathematical discovery has been at the forefront of every civilised society, and in use in even the most primitive of cultures. You are going to delve into this world of Maths which impacts every day of your life. You will be developing your problem solving strategies by studying a range of topics which we split into the following categories: Number, Algebra, Geometry and Data & Statistics. You will learn and practise mathematical language so that you can properly communicate what you have discovered.

### **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

You will learn to:

- Identify and use the appropriate mathematical methods to solve a problem given in a context.
- Apply logical thinking to break down and solve mathematical problems.
- Manipulate and simplify algebraic expressions
- Form and solve equations.
- Carry out efficient mental and written calculations.
- Solve spatial problems involving length, area, perimeter, volume and angles.
- Transform shapes using an understanding of transformations and coordinate systems.
- Organise and represent data.
- Analyse and interpret data and draw valid conclusions.

### **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

Paper 1 (Non-calculator) – 33.3% of the final mark. 1 hour 30 mins exam.

Paper 2 (Calculator) – 33.3% of the final mark. 1 hour 30 mins exam.

Paper 3 (Calculator) – 33.3% of the final mark. 1 hour 30 mins exam.

**HOMEWORK** - 90 minutes of Sparx Maths per week.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

Students in the top set also study for the AQA Level 2 Further Maths qualification. This is assessed by two papers sat in Year 11. This qualification introduces pupils to some A level Maths and Further Maths topics to extend their knowledge and prepare them for further study. Selected students also take part in the Intermediate Individual Maths challenge (UKMT).

### **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

Students intending to take Advanced level Mathematics at Preston Manor should note that a grade 7 at GCSE is required. Students intending to take advanced level Further Mathematics should note that Grade 8 at GCSE is required.

### **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Mr. Ali [k.ali@preston-manor.com](mailto:k.ali@preston-manor.com)

# Maths Functional Skills

**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED:** Entry level (1-3), Level 1, Level 2 Functional Skills

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## Functional Skills Maths Offer

The Functional Skills Maths course is run in Year 10 as an alternative pathway to Mathematics GCSE.

In Year 10 they will study Functional Skills Maths at a level appropriate to each student and then will progress into a GCSE Maths course in Year 11.

## WHAT IS Maths Functional Skills ABOUT?

The qualification has been designed to inspire and motivate learners, providing opportunities to develop their understanding and skills in mathematics.

The qualifications give learners the opportunity to:

- demonstrate a sound grasp of the underpinning skills and basics of mathematical problem-solving skills appropriate to the level, and the ability to apply mathematical thinking to solve problems in familiar situations
- achieve the skills for further study at GCSE
- achieve a foundation for progression into employment.

The curriculum will enable learners to become confident in their use of fundamental mathematical knowledge and skills, and give the learners an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding by applying their knowledge and skills to solve simple mathematical problems or to carry out simple tasks. It will enable students to develop an appreciation of the role played by mathematics in the world of work and in life generally.

## WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?

- Using numbers and the number system
- Using common measures, shape and space
- Handling information and data

## HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?

### Entry Level 1:

- Section A: Non-calculator (25%: 20 minutes)
- Section B: Calculator (75%: 60 minutes)

### Entry Level 2:

- Section A: Non-calculator (25%: 25 minutes)
- Section B: Calculator (75%: 65 minutes)

### Entry Level 3:

- Section A: Non-calculator (25%: 25 minutes)
- Section B: Calculator (75%: 75 minutes)

### Level 1/ Level 2:

- Section A: Non-calculator (25%: 25 minutes)
- Section B: Calculator (75%: 90 minutes)

## WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?

Mr K Ali

[k.ali@preston-manor.com](mailto:k.ali@preston-manor.com)

Ms T Neale

[t.neale@preston-manor.com](mailto:t.neale@preston-manor.com)

# Combined Science

**EXAM BOARD: OCR (Gateway)**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE (DOUBLE AWARD)**

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## **WHAT IS COMBINED SCIENCE ABOUT?**

Students will study biology, chemistry and physics as separate subjects and have specialised teachers for each subject. GCSE Combined Science offers the chance to develop the scientific literacy skills needed to become active and informed citizens in a modern society where science and technology play key roles in shaping lives. In lessons, students will have the opportunity to consider the issues and choices raised by technology and science. They will learn to appreciate what science has to say about people, the environment and the universe. Studying science will also allow students to develop their working scientifically skills and practise designing, investigating and evaluating experiments.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

All students will study topics in biology, chemistry and physics. Examples of topics covered are:

**Biology** - Respiration, Photosynthesis, Homeostasis, Ecosystems, Inheritance, Health

**Chemistry** - Atomic Structure, Bonding, Types of Reactions, Equilibria, Organic Chemistry

**Physics** - Motion, Electrostatics, Beyond Earth, Radioactivity, Wave Behaviour, Energy

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

The Combined Science GCSE Course is 100% written examination assessed. Students sit six exams at the end of year 11, each 1 hour 10 minutes long:

- Paper 1 & 2 – Biology topics (120 marks, 33.3% of the final mark)
- Paper 3 & 4 – Chemistry topics (120 marks, 33.3% of the final mark)
- Paper 5 & 6 – Physics topics (120 marks, 33.3% of the final mark)

These papers will contain multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and extended writing (4-6 marks) questions. Some questions in the paper will test practical skills relating to the required practicals, as well as scientific knowledge and understanding. Numeracy and literacy skills will also be assessed.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

All students will follow a two and a half year course (starting in Year 9) and will achieve two GCSEs for the Combined Science qualification. Foundation and Higher tier papers are both offered.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

Students can further their study via A Level sciences or embark on a BTEC in Applied Science. These courses lead to a variety of further study opportunities at degree or apprenticeship level, involving science related careers such as medicine or dentistry.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Ms. G. Pindura (Deputy Head of Science and KS4 lead) [g.pindura@preston-manor.com](mailto:g.pindura@preston-manor.com)

Ms K Foale (Head of Science) [k.foale@preston-manor.com](mailto:k.foale@preston-manor.com)

# Separate Sciences

**EXAM BOARD: OCR (Gateway)**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE BIOLOGY, GCSE CHEMISTRY and GCSE PHYSICS**

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## **WHAT IS SEPARATE SCIENCE ABOUT?**

GCSE separate sciences (formerly known as triple science) provide a bridge to further study science, by giving students the opportunity to develop the more advanced knowledge and understanding needed in higher education. Students will develop and hone transferable skills, as well as enhance their scientific literacy, required to be active and informed citizens in a modern society where science and technology play key roles in shaping our lives. Studying science will also allow students to develop their working scientifically skills and practise designing, investigating and evaluating experiments.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

Studying separate sciences gives students the opportunity to learn about topics in greater depth, enhancing progression and giving students a greater understanding of science. Students selected for this option will study the same topics covered in the combined science course, but with greater detail and knowledge across all areas. In biology, this will involve a greater knowledge and understanding of processes such as osmosis, protein synthesis and vision. In chemistry, students will look deeper into the Periodic Table, studying the transition metals and using flame tests and spectra to analyse elements. In physics, students will get the opportunity to study the concept of an electric field and how to use alternators and generators.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

The GCSE Separate Science courses are 100% written examination assessed. Students will sit six exams, each 1 hour 45 minutes long:

- Paper 1 & 2 – Biology topics (180 marks, 100% of GCSE Biology final mark)
- Paper 3 & 4 – Chemistry topics (180 marks, 100% of GCSE Chemistry final mark)
- Paper 5 & 6 – Physics topics (180 marks, 100% of GCSE Physics final mark)

These papers will contain multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and extended writing (4-6 marks) questions. Some questions in the paper will test practical skills relating to the required practicals, as well as scientific knowledge and understanding. Numeracy and literacy skills will also be assessed.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Students are selected for the separate sciences based on their performance at KS3. **Studying separate science does not take up one of your options.** This route will cover topics in more detail than that covered in the combined science course. The course provides a better foundation for students wanting to study any of the sciences at A Level.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

Students can further their study via A Level sciences or embark on a BTEC in Applied Science. These courses lead to a variety of further study opportunities at degree or apprenticeship level, involving science related careers such as medicine or dentistry.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Ms. G. Pindura (Deputy Head of Science and KS4 lead) [g.pindura@preston-manor.com](mailto:g.pindura@preston-manor.com)  
Ms K Foale (Head of Science) [k.foale@preston-manor.com](mailto:k.foale@preston-manor.com)



# **Subject Information**

## **Option subjects**



# Art and Design

**EXAM BOARD: AQA**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE Fine Art**

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## **WHAT IS FINE ART ABOUT?**

The GCSE in Fine Art is an exciting and creative course that provides opportunities to develop independent ideas and gain new skills in visual communication. There is an emphasis on adventurous and enquiring approaches to art and design and producing artwork that embraces a range of ideas. You will respond to diverse artists and artworks, from contemporary practice, past practice and different cultures.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

- Increased understanding of art, craft and design.
- The ability to investigate, analyse and experiment in a range of media.
- Practical skills to express ideas and use visual language.
- Communication skills, and problem solving.
- The ability to observe, select and interpret.
- Information and Communication Technology.
- An appreciation of the Formal Elements of Art and the natural and man-made environment.
- How to use a range of tools and equipment.
- Understand and use appropriately and safely a range of materials, equipment, processes and techniques in two or three dimensions.
- There is a strong emphasis placed on drawing.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

**Coursework (Personal Portfolio) – 60%** Comprises of two units completed over the two years. All class work and home learning forms the basis of these units and involves the study of a variety of topics executed in a wide range of media.

Components 1 and 2 include a body of research, supporting studies and development work leading to one or more outcomes or to a variety of resolutions.

**Exam (Externally set assignment) - 40%** Assessment is made after the final day of the 10 hour exam. Students will be expected to visit galleries and exhibitions in their own time and be prepared to do much of the work at home and at extra lessons run in school. You must be prepared to work hard to succeed in this subject.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

Opportunity to visit galleries, and artists in residence.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

Most students who do GCSE Fine Art move on to do A-Level Art or Graphics and can apply to study art and design courses at university. Career paths for art students in the creative industries include: animation and illustration, advertising, architecture, ceramics, cinematography, concept art, curating in museums and galleries, fashion and textile design, fine art painting, printmaking and sculpture, graphic design, game design, interior design, multi-media and new media, photography, product design, and set design.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Mr D Finberg [d.finberg@preston-manor.com](mailto:d.finberg@preston-manor.com)



# Business Studies

**EXAM BOARD: Edexcel**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE Business Studies**

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## **WHAT IS BUSINESS ABOUT?**

You will study a range of topics about the Business world around you. You will gain a unique insight into different businesses in the UK and beyond such as Apple, Lego, Tesco, Tesla and ASOS. The course will develop your knowledge about how businesses are changing to customers' needs, such as online retailing and how a business has to consider the global environment, include exchange rates and inflation.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

You will be able to investigate, analyse and evaluate business opportunities and issues. Topics include enterprise, financial decisions, human resource decisions, operational decisions and external influences on a business. You will develop skills such as team building, communication and research skills. You will use quantitative and qualitative data in making business decisions. Furthermore, you will develop vital problem solving, numerical and decision-making skills, as well as your creativity.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

100% of your final marks will be through two exam papers. Both papers will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

Paper 1 is based on Theme 1: Investigating small business

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes 50% of the qualification at 90 marks

Paper 2 is based on Theme 2: Building a business

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes 50% of the qualification at 90 marks

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

Through the course you will have opportunities to participate in internal competitions such as The Apprentice, Trading Day, Problem Solving on the Stock Market, Complete a Business Plan and may have possible opportunities to take part in external business competitions such as the Premier League Enterprise Challenge.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

Business studies can lead to many career pathways such as a business analyst, events manager, investment banking as well as links to many other subjects. The subject can develop your entrepreneurial skills for the future, or if you have a general curiosity in business. The subject will feed your interest in the growing world of finance, e-commerce and business. The subject links into A level Business and Economics.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Mr A Ilahi [a.ilahi@preston-manor.com](mailto:a.ilahi@preston-manor.com)

# Drama

**EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE**

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## **WHAT IS DRAMA ABOUT?**

- Devising your own performance work for an audience
- Staging and performing a set play text
- Evaluating a piece of live theatre
- Rehearsing and performing a scripted extract for an audience

You will take part in practical workshops; exploring topical themes and issues as well as published plays. You will have the opportunity to go and see a piece of professional theatre.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

You will develop performance skills in how to create meaning using lights, movement, music and staging effects. We learn through doing and most of the lessons are practical. By reading, discussing and exploring practically you will learn how to approach all aspects of the exam both written and performance.

Skills such as leadership and management skills, critical thinking, literary appreciation, presentation skills, creative problem solving, analytical and evaluative writing help to set you apart from others when applying for colleges, sixth forms and the job market.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

### **60% Coursework, 40% Written Exam**

COMPONENT 1 – 40%: Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus. Students also produce a written portfolio and/or recorded verbal evidence.

COMPONENT 2– 20%: Students will perform in two key extracts from a performance text. Performance could be a monologue, duologue or group performance.

COMPONENT 3 – 40%: Students will sit a 105-minute written exam, answering questions on the practical exploration of a play text and on a piece of live theatre that they will have seen.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

Opportunities to work with visiting industry specialists. Visit a London theatre venue to see a piece of professional theatre. Work creatively in a practical style with literature and poetic ideas.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

You can go on to study A Level Theatre Studies, BTEC Diploma in Performing Arts. You could also audition for professional acting training.

The subject links with many different careers including broadcast journalism, film and TV production, arts administration, project and events management, drama & arts therapy, professional acting training, community projects, education outreach, technical theatre, directing, radio production, audio and voiceover artist.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Ms S.Conteh-Mosere [s.contehmosere@preston-manor.com](mailto:s.contehmosere@preston-manor.com)

# English as a Second Language (ESOL)

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**EXAM BOARD:** Cambridge

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED:** IGCSE

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## **WHAT IS ESOL ABOUT?**

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is accepted by universities and employers as proof of ability to understand and communicate in English. It is aimed at students whose first language is not English, but who use English as a language of study. It is a skills based course that aims to enable students to do the following:

- To develop the ability to use English effectively for the purpose of practical communication in a variety of situations.
- To form a sound base for the skills required for further study and employment using English as the medium.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

There is a strong focus on spelling, punctuation, grammar and vocabulary throughout the course. Students master:

- Understanding, identifying and selecting texts
- Carrying out a range of writing tasks on a number of topics
- Describing and reporting a wide range of information
- Organising and presenting material in appropriate format
- Retrieving facts and details from a range of information
- Understanding ideas and the connection between them
- Authentic Speaking and Listening practice

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

**Paper 1 Reading and writing** (50% of final grade) - exercises testing a range of reading and writing skills

**Paper 2 Listening** - candidates listen to several short extracts and longer texts, and complete a range of task types

**Speaking** - Following a 2–3-minute warm-up conversation, candidates engage in a 6–9-minute discussion with the examiner on a given topic.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

Pass grade in IGCSE English as a Second Language satisfies the English proficiency requirements of many universities in the UK and in other English speaking countries.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Ms D Fiedler [d.fiedler@preston-manor.com](mailto:d.fiedler@preston-manor.com)

# ELC Step Up to English

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**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED:** Entry Level 1, 2 or 3

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## **WHAT IS 'STEP UP TO ENGLISH' ABOUT?**

An opportunity to achieve an entry level certificate, a nationally recognised qualification that is a certified award in English. Assessments are designed to inspire and motivate students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge whilst making sure that texts are accessible. You will develop the skills needed to read and understand a range of texts as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

'Step Up' can be tailored to students' needs through either the Silver step or Gold step. Silver step is aimed at Entry 1 and Entry 2 students and Gold step is for Entry 3 students looking to progress to GCSE.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

Each component thematically links reading and writing. Spoken language assessment is also included:

- **Component 1** - Literacy topics (50% of final mark)  
Ask students to complete a number of tasks based around a theme.
- **Component 2:** Creative reading and writing (50% of final mark)  
Literary in nature and students will be asked to respond to excerpts from literary and literary non-fiction texts and write creatively.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

The qualification offers a non-exam assessment (NEA). The specification offers two components in both steps, which each assess reading and writing. Spoken language is included in Component 1 and contributes to the overall mark:

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

You can go onto study Entry Level Vocational courses in FE Colleges.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Ms D Fiedler [d.fiedler@preston-manor.com](mailto:d.fiedler@preston-manor.com)

# Hospitality and catering

**EXAM BOARD: EDUCAS**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering (Technical Award)**

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## **WHAT IS Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering ABOUT?**

Unit 1 enables learners to gain and develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety.

Unit 2 enables learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

**Unit 1:** The hospitality and catering industry.

Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes, worth 40% of qualification. Out of 80 marks. Questions requiring short and extended answers, based around applied situations. Learners will be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions.

**Unit 2:** Hospitality and catering in action. Controlled assessment: approximately 12 hours worth 60% of qualification. Out of 120 marks

Each external examination will:

- be set and marked by WJEC
- be graded Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Distinction\*, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction\*.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE AND THEORY EXAM?**

- 1.1 Hospitality and catering provision
- 1.2 How hospitality and catering providers operate
- 1.3 Health and safety in hospitality and catering
- 1.4 Food safety in hospitality and catering
- 2.1 The importance of nutrition
- 2.2 Menu planning
- 2.3 The skills and techniques of preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes
- 2.4 Evaluating cooking skills

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

Students will be expected to attend intervention after school and require you to work independently to complete certain theory based investigations and tasks. Pupils contribute to the local community by preparing food for some cultural events.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

Most students move on to do an apprenticeship in Food Nutrition and Science or work in the hospitality sector. They progress on to a science degree related subject which can lead to gaining professions in a wide range of career paths. This option provides an excellent foundation for students interested in a food career such as a clinical dietician, food and nutrition management, diet nutritionist, qualified chef, physician, food scientist.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK?**

**Ms C Rana** [c.rana@preston-manor.com](mailto:c.rana@preston-manor.com)

# Geography

**EXAM BOARD: Exdecel (Syllabus B)**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE**

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## **WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY ABOUT?**

You will study a range of topics about the world around you. You will gain a unique insight into different cultures and how they interact with the environment, including how to reduce their impact on the environment. You will develop your ability to explain the effect that different human and physical processes can have on the environment and evaluate the sustainability of how humans are using different environments around the world. Geography complements other written subjects such as Biology, Chemistry and History.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

- 1. Global Geographical Issues** – includes the study of hazardous earth, development and the challenges of an urbanising world.
- 2. UK Geographical Issues** – includes the study of the UK's evolving physical and human landscapes and the **undertaking of compulsory** physical and human fieldwork, which students will have to answer questions on in the exam.
- 3. People & Environmental Issues: Making Geographical Decisions** – includes the study of people and the biosphere, forests under threat and consuming energy resources. This is a decision-making exercise where you study a specific place in detail, such as Russia or Indonesia.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

Pupils will sit **three** external examinations at the end of Year 11 containing questions relating to maps, photographs, graphs, data or articles. Short answer questions (1-4 marks) and 3-4 longer questions (8-12 marks) are featured in each paper.

**Paper 1** – Global Geographical Issues – 1 hour 30 mins (94 marks) = 37.5% of total

**Paper 2** – UK Geographical Issues – 1 hour 30 mins (94 marks) = 37.5% of total

**Paper 3** – People & Environmental Issues: Making Geographical Decisions - 1 hour 30 mins (64 marks) = 25% of total

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

Students are exposed to issues and environments outside of their everyday experience through opportunities for fieldwork and investigations, which allows them to consider our changing world and their role within it. Students who are interested in some of the major issues facing the world today, e.g., climate change, meeting future energy demands, migration, rising populations, and development, will find geography interesting and stimulating. Students will go on two compulsory field trips for Paper 2, and they may have the opportunity for other visits or enrichment activities.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

As an English Baccalaureate subject, geography can open a broad range of degree doors, which can keep your options open in the future. Geography can lead to success in a number of careers, including global development and politics, law, accounting, urban planning, the expanding global information systems (GIS) sector, environmental consulting, conservation officer roles in the oil industry, and many more.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Ms A Evora Miranda [a.miranda@preston-manor.com](mailto:a.miranda@preston-manor.com)

# Graphics

**EXAM BOARD: AQA**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE Graphic communications**

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## **WHAT IS GRAPHICS ABOUT?**

Personal Portfolio (Coursework) and ESA (Exam).

The following areas will be covered in project-based topics such as advertising campaigns, branding and packaging design. You will:

- Create your own portfolio of work
- Use Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator
- Learn different printmaking techniques
- Analyse existing poster campaigns and create your own merchandise.
- Develop your own ideas using artist inspiration.
- Research Graphic designers and illustrators.
- Create prototypes of packaging

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

- **Creativity and Critical Analysis** - making links between the principles of good design, existing solutions and technological knowledge
- **Decision making** - consider sustainability and combine skills with knowledge and understanding in order to design and make quality products
- Explore ways in which aesthetic, technical, economic, ethical, and social dimensions interact to shape designing and making
- **Analysis skills** – by analysing existing products and producing practical solutions to needs, wants and opportunities, recognising their impact on the quality of life
- **Understanding** - that designing and making reflect and influence cultures and societies, and that products have an impact on lifestyle

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

**Coursework (Personal Portfolio)** 60% of final mark - Assessment is on-going throughout all units. Overall assessment is made at the final marking stage at the end of Year 2. All four assessment objectives must be covered. Selected tasks will count towards a set number of hours of Controlled Assessment.

**ESA- Exam** 40% of final mark - Assessment is made after the final day of the 10 hour exam. All four assessment objectives must be covered.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

Students will be expected to visit galleries and exhibitions in their own time and be prepared to do much of the work at home and at extra lessons run in school. This is a time consuming course which requires you to work by yourself. This is not an easy option as the workload is heavy. You must be prepared to work hard to succeed in this subject.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

Most students who do GCSE Graphics move on to do A Level Art or Graphics. They then move on to do university degrees in these subjects. It suits students interested in careers in Animation, Games design, Illustration, Web design, App design, Architecture, Art director, Graphic design, interior design, advertising, Fashion and Product design.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

**Ms C Rana**      [c.rana@preston-manor.com](mailto:c.rana@preston-manor.com)



# History

**EXAM BOARD: Edexcel**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE**

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## **WHAT IS HISTORY ABOUT?**

You will study a range of topics about the past and consider how they impact the world around us. History provides you with an opportunity to delve deep into key historical events and periods and examine and explore changes to societies around the world.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

We are excited to offer a new unit that explores Migration c.1000-present and Notting Hill c1870-1900, along with Early Elizabethan England 1558-88, Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39 and Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-9.

You will develop skills which will allow you to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations in the context of historical events studied. You will learn how to use a range of source material to comprehend, interpret and cross refer sources, and will also develop skills to explain, analyse and make judgements about historical events and periods.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

Paper 1 (Migration) worth 30% of final mark. Assessment consists of 6 questions including causation, making a judgement and use of sources.

Paper 2 (Early Elizabethan England and the Cold War) worth 40% of final mark. Assessment consists of 6 questions including causation, consequence, narrative and significance.

Paper 3 (Weimar and Nazi Germany) worth 30% of final mark. Assessment consists of 6 questions mainly on source skills of inference, usefulness and historical interpretations.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

You can go on to study A Level History.

Studying History can lead to a wide range of careers including Law, Medicine, Journalism, Education, Politics, Business and security services such as MI5 and MI6.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Dr J Kempner [j.kempner@preston-manor.com](mailto:j.kempner@preston-manor.com)



# Information Technology

**EXAM BOARD:** OCR

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED:** Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Information Technologies

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## **WHAT IS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES ABOUT?**

You will be studying the phases of the project life cycle and carry out tasks in each phase when carrying out an IT project. You will learn about how to:

- Initiate and plan a project.
- Use planning tools.
- Execute a project.
- Use communication software.
- Review and evaluate a project.

Information Technology courses can open a broad range of job opportunities for you in the future.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

You will develop an understanding of the tools and techniques that can be used to initiate and plan solutions, as well look at how data and information can be collected, stored and used. You will need to be able to import and manipulate data to develop a solution to meet an identified need. You will be able to select and present relevant information in the development of the solution and be able to review and evaluate the development of the solution.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

Written Exam - 1 hour 45min (50% of final mark)

Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions -

Internally assessed written assignments (50% of final mark)

Developing technological solutions

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

This qualification will improve your knowledge of the digital environment and your confidence with IT. You will learn about data management issues and develop practical skills by planning and creating an integrated technological solution to communicate information.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

This qualification provides good progression to AS and A level Cambridge Technicals in IT or to move on to further education, training or employment.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Mr A Ilahi [a.ilahi@preston-manor.com](mailto:a.ilahi@preston-manor.com) or Mr Gawa [n.gawa@preston-manor.com](mailto:n.gawa@preston-manor.com)

# Computer Science

**EXAM BOARD: OCR**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE**

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## **WHAT IS COMPUTER SCIENCE ABOUT?**

You will be studying about the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation. You will be analysing problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs. You will need to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically and learn about components that make up digital systems and how they communicate with one another and with other systems. You will also learn about the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.

As an EBacc subject, Computer Science can open a broad range of job opportunities for you in the future.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

You will develop valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace. You will learn about computational thinking and how to apply it through a chosen programming language. You will be able to apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

Unit 1 - Computer systems - Written Exam - 1 hour 30min (50%)

Unit 2 - Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - Written Exam - 1 hour 30min (50%)

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

You do not need to own a home computer to take this course, but it would help. The software used to develop the computer programmes is Open Source (free). This course is suitable for students who have a very logical mind.

Do you enjoy solving mathematical problems?

Did you enjoy Python programming, Hardware, Software, Logic and Binary in your Computing lessons? It's like that but a lot harder!

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

This qualification provides good progression to AS and A Level Computer Science or IT or to move on to further education, training or employment.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Mr A Ilahi [a.ilahi@preston-manor.com](mailto:a.ilahi@preston-manor.com) or Mr Gawa [n.gawa@preston-manor.com](mailto:n.gawa@preston-manor.com)

# Media

**EXAM BOARD: Eduqas**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE**

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## **WHAT IS MEDIA ABOUT?**

Thinking analytically and creatively is what Media Studies is all about. It gives you the opportunity to look in depth at a range of media products, many of which you consume on a daily basis. You will have the chance to discuss these products, how they work, who uses them, and the issues they raise:

- How to analyse and compare media products.
- How media products reflect society.
- Who uses media products and why.
- How to think creatively to construct your own media product.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

You will study a range of media products across different media, including: Film, TV, Videogames, Magazines, Newspapers, Advertising, Radio, Music Videos, Social Media. You will learn and explore some key production skills. You will form the ability to ask good questions and to consider issues from different points of view. You will build critical thinking and analysis through the study of media products, their audiences and institutions. You will also develop your appreciation and understanding of the media and its role in your daily lives.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

### **Paper 1 Exam (40%) - Exploring the Media**

This 1 hour 30 minutes exam will include different question types on magazines, newspapers, film, radio and video games.

### **Paper 2 Exam (30%) - Understanding Media Forms and Products**

This 1 hour 30 minutes exam will include a range of question types testing your understanding of media language and representation.

### **Non-Exam Assessment (30%)**

You will plan and produce a media product individually, using a brief provided by the exam board.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

You should familiarise yourself with The Observer Newspaper and its website, listen to BBC Radio 1, look out for music magazine front covers, and follow developments in the media.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

The GCSE is an excellent starting point to develop into media specialists and progress academically to study the subject further. Employers recognise this as a subject that demonstrates both academic and practical ability. An emphasis on thinking skills and understanding of the media industry enables you to start to develop the experience required by industries such as advertising, broadcasting, journalism, and digital production.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Ms M McLeod [m.mcleod@preston-manor.com](mailto:m.mcleod@preston-manor.com)

Mr I McNab [i.mcnab@prston-manor.com](mailto:i.mcnab@prston-manor.com)

# Music

**EXAM BOARD: Pearson EDEXCEL**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE Music**

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## **WHAT IS MUSIC ABOUT?**

This course gives you the chance to develop your skills as a performer and composer, and to widen your knowledge of musical styles and techniques. You will also develop skills in using music technology to aid the creation of your own music. Programs used include Logic (the music industry standard) and Sibelius. Beyond the purely musical, a GCSE in Music also develops your analytical and critical thinking skills and improves your social skills and confidence when working with others.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

**Performing:** You will have subsidised lessons on your main instrument /voice and many opportunities to perform on your own or in a group both in and outside of school.

**Composing:** You will be taught techniques for making a wide range of music from classical to modern styles to create your own music.

**Listening & Appraising:** You will study musical styles through a series of set works and develop skills in writing about, analysing and notating music.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

**Component 1: Performing (coursework) 30%** - You will prepare and record four minutes of music (with one piece to be played by yourself and one in a small group) during the course.

**Component 2: Composing Music (coursework) 30%** - You will compose two pieces of music lasting at least one minute each.

**Component 3: Listening and Appraising (examination) 40%** - An hour and a half written examination where you answer questions about music that is played to you. This exam covers four main areas:

- Instrumental Music 1700 – 1820.
- Vocal Music.
- Music for Stage and Screen.
- Fusions.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

Opportunity to perform both in school and in outside venues such as Brent Civic Centre, Westminster Central Hall, with English National Opera and The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. You will also have first priority access to the Music Academy, English National Opera's youth projects which cover a range of creative disciplines not just opera.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

A GCSE in Music is a good basis for and compliment to all kinds of courses in Performing Arts and may also lead on to specialist Music and Music Technology A Levels. Thinking further ahead, top universities also favour applicants for all subject areas with qualifications in music. Previous Preston Manor students with a GCSE Music have gone on to become producers, recording studio managers, singer-songwriters and run business accounts for Yamaha Music in both this country and abroad.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Mr K. Crawley [k.crawley@preston-manor.com](mailto:k.crawley@preston-manor.com)

# Modern Foreign Languages

**EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE French or Spanish**

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## **WHAT IS MFL ABOUT?**

Learning a foreign language is an exciting, challenging and rewarding experience. Not only do you learn about other cultures and countries but languages improve your ability to communicate with new and interesting people. Furthermore, learning languages provides you with extremely useful skills such as: communication, confidence, creativity, problem solving and improving your memory.

Living in or around Wembley, you are surrounded by people who speak different languages and we are sure that you have noticed that it makes the place far more interesting and welcoming.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics.

The five themes are:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension.

Each theme contains a series of sub-themes that will enable you to develop real life, transferable language skills.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

There is a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). You must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

- Writing Exam 25% of final mark
- Speaking: 25% of final mark
- Reading: 25% of final mark
- Listening: 25% of final mark

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

You will have the opportunity to talk to native speakers and work in collaboration with others. You may have the possibility to go on a trip abroad.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

Developing your foreign language skills will enhance career prospects. Languages can be successfully combined with Law, Business, Humanities and Sciences for further study and in the workplace. Knowing a foreign language will make you far more employable!

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Mr Stoll

[p.stoll@preston-manor.com](mailto:p.stoll@preston-manor.com)

Mr Moreno

[s.morenogil@preston-manor.com](mailto:s.morenogil@preston-manor.com)

# BTEC Performing Arts (Dance)

**EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: Level 1/2 BTEC TECH Award in Performing Arts**

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## **WHAT IS DANCE ABOUT?**

You will study a range of dance styles and professional works that will give you the opportunity to develop specific knowledge and the practical skills necessary to enter the Performing Arts industry.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

We study professional works for example, Jazz (Chicago) Contemporary/Jazz (Alvin Ailey) and Street /K-Pop/Hip Hop Styles (Diversity, Black Pink and Matt Steffanina). You will develop your technical and interpretative abilities, such as increasing flexibility, improving posture and enhancing your creative ability. You will improve your coordination and communication skills, as well as your movement memory.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

**Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts: 30% - Teacher Assessed** You research 3 different professional choreographers and learn their work in order to create a 5-minute powerpoint presentation and a 1000-word extended essay (Which can be done on audio or video vlog).

**Component 2: Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts: 30% - Teacher Assessed.** You learn and perform professional pieces of choreography that are at least 2 minutes long and perform them to a live audience as a solo or group. You will keep a video rehearsal/ performance log and an audio evaluation.

**Component 3: Performing to a brief: 40% - External Examiner Assessment.** You will use your dance techniques within rehearsal and performance to explore, develop and perform your own piece of group choreography. This is based on a theme given by the exam board. You will complete **an extended piece of writing, scrapbook or audio showing**, your research and development, of the creative process and an overall evaluation of your performance.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

Dance students take part in the Largest Dance Event in the World: **Move It'**, they participate in Dance Workshop Days with dance professionals and other performing artists from the Performing arts Industry. Dancers attend external dance classes and numerous theatre trips throughout the year. They choreograph and perform for live audiences in and around Brent. Students may also be given the opportunity to obtain a Dance Leaders level 2 Qualification well established and recognised by Colleges / Sixth forms

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

You can go on to study A/AS Level or Level 3 in Dance/Performing Arts/Media. From there you can go on to accomplish a Dance Degree at University or audition for a performing arts school or work within the industry. Qualification can lead to a career as Sports Therapist, Professional Dancer, Choreographer, Teacher or Doctor of Movement to name but a few.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Ms R Robinson

Email [r.robinson@preston-manor.com](mailto:r.robinson@preston-manor.com)



# Personal Development and Employability Skills Qualification

**EXAM BOARD: Prince's Trust**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: Entry Level 3 Award to Level 2 Certificate**

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## **WHAT IS PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY (PDE) ABOUT?**

Prince's Trust have worked closely with young people over the last 40 years to develop key work skills to support them to successfully move on to employment, education and training. You will engage in learning through teamwork, developing skills, attitudes and qualities that are essential for work and employment. This programme gives you the opportunity to develop skills that are relevant to your future work life. You will also develop English and Maths skills through embedded Literacy, Language and Numeracy (LLN) and STEM support.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

All units are been linked to the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) employability skills. You will cover many different interesting topic such as:

Personal Development- leadership and teamwork, interpersonal and self management, confidence. Life Skills- money management, wellbeing, healthy active lifestyle, problem solving

Active Citizenship- community support, community project, managing behaviour  
Enterprise Project- developing business ideas, business concepts, money management  
Preparation for Work- career planning, work experience, customer service, interview skills, presentation skills

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

Throughout this 2 year course 100% of your work is centre assessed using your portfolio of evidence to see if your work meets the requirements set out by The Prince's Trust. Internal assessment by centre coordinator and external moderation of student portfolios by The Prince's Trust team. All activities are set by the centre to meet the level requirements detailed in the unit assessment criteria.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

You will take part in various modules and be part of practical assignments and presentations while completing a portfolio of evidence. There will be a variety of chances to engage with The Prince's Trust as they will visit school for talks and we will have the opportunity to work with outside speakers from a variety of different workplaces such as banks, courts of law, local business, sports groups, prisons, local community, charity/ volunteer sector.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

PDE is an excellent opportunity for you to gain the valuable skills, qualities and attitudes needed for your future including employment, further education and training. This Programme is recognised by a large number of well known employers across the sectors and is a good platform to show you have the skills needed for your future. Prince's Trust offer a wide variety of Post 16 courses to move on to.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Ms A Dynan [a.dynan@preston-manor.com](mailto:a.dynan@preston-manor.com)

# Physical Education

**EXAM BOARD: AQA**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE**

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## **WHAT IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION ABOUT?**

This subject will provide you with an interesting and challenging learning experience above that of just playing sport. You will be introduced to key sporting ideas and shown how these interact through practical and theoretical settings. Through the combination of practical and theory lessons you will develop your transferable skills including, decision making, psychological understanding of performers and analytical skills.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

- Paper 1 - Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Movement Analysis and Physical Training.
- Paper 2 - Sports Psychology, Socio-cultural influences and Health, Fitness and well-being.
- Non exam assessment - You will be assessed in 3 different sports and complete 1 piece of controlled assessment based on analysis and evaluation

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

60% of the marks are available from the 2 exam papers, which are 1 hour 15 minutes each, and are taken at the end of Y11.

30% of the marks are available from your practical performance in three practical activities. In the practical element of the course both individual skills and full game ability are assessed.

10% of the marks are available for controlled assessment coursework from the analysis and evaluation of sporting performance.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

You will have the opportunity to enhance your practical ability in a wide range of sports, and to experience other sports and activities for the first time. There will be opportunities to represent Preston Manor in competitive fixtures against other schools, and you will be encouraged to participate in sport either within school or for external clubs.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

The study of GCSE Physical Education opens up a range of possibilities for further study such as A Level Physical Education and A Level Psychology, plus vocational courses such as BTEC Sport and Sport and Exercise Science. Associated careers include Teaching or Sports Coaching, Sports Management, Nutrition, Physiotherapy, Fitness instructor and Professional Sport.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Mr K Mc Crann    [k.mccrann@preston-manor.com](mailto:k.mccrann@preston-manor.com)



# Religious Studies

**EXAM BOARD: AQA (Syllabus A)**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: GCSE**

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## **WHAT IS RELIGIOUS STUDIES ABOUT?**

Our GCSE covers study of two major world religions: Christianity and Islam, and four contemporary ethical themes ensuring that you have a diverse choice of subjects to explore. You will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling you to develop your own attitudes towards religious issues.

## **WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?**

You will be studying beliefs, teachings and practices of **two religions in depth**: Christianity and Islam as well as elements of other religions.

You will also explore **four Thematic Studies**:

- **Relationships and families**: sex before marriage, contraception and homosexuality.
- **Religion and life**: abortion, euthanasia, animal experimentation.
- **Religion, peace and conflict**: violence, weapons of mass destruction and pacifism.
- **Religion, crime and punishment**: corporal punishment, death penalty and forgiveness.

You will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare you for further study.

## **HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?**

GCSE Religious Studies is assessed only by exam – there is no coursework.

Exams are taken at the end of Year 11. There are TWO RS exams- 1 hour 45 minutes long each.

Exams have four questions each made of five-parts: multiple choice (1 mark); two examples (2 marks); two developed reasons answer (4 marks); two developed reasons answer including a reference to religious teachings (5 marks); and an essay (12 marks).

Paper 1 (50%) **Christianity and Islam**      Paper 2 (50%) **Thematic Studies**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

You will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. We live in a diverse society: understanding religious beliefs, ideas and outlooks, means we can understand the world in which we live.

## **FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS:**

You can go on to study A Level Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics. This course is a written subject which develops skills of logical reasoning, the use and interpretation of evidence, evaluation and communication. GCSE Religious Studies is useful for a wide range of careers including law, journalism, medicine, media, social work and teaching.

## **WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Mr H Pratchett      [h.pratchett@preston-manor.com](mailto:h.pratchett@preston-manor.com)

# Study Support

**EXAM BOARD: AQA**

**QUALIFICATION AWARDED: Unit Award Scheme Certification**

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## WHAT IS STUDY SUPPORT ABOUT?

Unit Award Scheme (UAS) is linked to the learners' GCSE option choices. They are a stand-alone certification which records the learners' progression through their various GCSE options. UAS can help learners with progression to:

- further study
- employment
- independent living
- more active involvement in society

It is shown to motivate, encourage, engage, support and raise self esteem and can reward achievement which might otherwise go unrecognised, eg small steps or non-mainstream subjects.

Certification:

- Each time a unit is achieved, a Unit Award Certificate is issued.
- They don't show a level - UAS is not a qualification - but instead show the detail of what the student has achieved in completing the unit.
- They provide a great talking point for the learner about what they've done, e.g. during an interview for a college place or employment.

Additionally, you will further develop your skills in literacy, numeracy & social communication. Study Support provides an opportunity for over-learning and consolidation of key concepts in core subjects such as English and Maths to improve your outcomes at GCSE and to support students to have the variety of skills needed to meet their target grades. You will have the opportunity to work in small targeted groups and gain valuable skills that will be used across all of your subjects.

## WHAT TOPICS / SKILLS ARE COVERED IN THE COURSE?

- Comprehension skills.
- Study skills: note taking, mind-mapping, organising & recording information.
- Communication skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening.
- Research skills: locating key information.
- Writing organisation: academic essay writing techniques.
- Revision skills: how to revise using a range of strategies suitable to your learning style.
- Exam technique: how to work effectively in exams and memory strategies.
- Personal development: organisation, personal finance, social and communication skills.
- Self awareness: identifying strengths and interests.
- Post 16 Options: support researching and applying for Colleges/ Sixth Form/ Apprenticeships, CV's and application forms.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INC. ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Opportunities to attend CV workshops to support your post 16 choices, career pathways, CV/ personal statement writing, interview skills, meet employers, aspirations, workplace skills.

## WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?

Ms T Neale [t.neale@preston-manor.com](mailto:t.neale@preston-manor.com)

Ms A Dynan [a.dynan@preston-manor.com](mailto:a.dynan@preston-manor.com)

Name:

Form:



## STAGE 4 OPTION CHOICES FORM 2023- 2024

(YOUR COPY – BRING TO YOUR OPTIONS INTERVIEW)

PLEASE MAKE 2 CHOICES IN EACH OPTION BLOCK. WRITE '1' FOR YOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> CHOICE, '2' FOR YOUR 2<sup>ND</sup> CHOICE SUBJECTS.

| Option Block A            |  | Option Block B                         |  | Option Block C                         |  | Option Block D  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Geography                 |  | Geography                              |  | Geography                              |  | Geography   |  |
| History                   |  | History                                |  | History                                |  | History   |  |
| Spanish                   |  | Spanish                                |  | Spanish                                |  | Spanish   |  |
| French                    |  | French                                 |  | French                                 |  | French  |  |
| Business                  |  | Business                               |  | Business                               |  | Business  |  |
| Computer Science          |  | Computer Science                       |  | Information Technology                 |  | Information Technology  |  |
| Graphics                  |  | Food Preparation & Nutrition           |  | Art & Design                           |  | Art & Design  |  |
| Religious Studies         |  | Graphics                               |  | Religious Studies                      |  | Music   |  |
| Drama                     |  | Media                                  |  | Performing Arts/Dance                  |  | Media   |  |
| PE GCSE                   |  | PE GCSE                                |  |  |  | PE GCSE   |  |
|                           |  | Personal Development & Employability * |  | Personal Development & Employability * |  | English as a Second Language <b>OR</b><br>ELC Step up to English* |  |
| Study Support (AQA UAS) * |  | Study Support (AQA UAS) *              |  | Study Support (AQA UAS) *              |  | Study Support (AQA UAS) *   |  |

\* subjects can only be chosen by invitation only and approval from SEN/EAL Departments

**You will be unable to choose the following combination of subjects:**

- Graphics and Art & Design
- Computer Science and IT

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Staff Signature                                |  |
| Date <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> |  |