THE MINSTER SCHOOL

GCSE Options 2023

Your Options ■ Your Choices ■ Your Future

Succeeding Together

A Church of England Academy

and National Teaching School

Contents

GCSE Options 2023

Introduction

The subjects you study during years 10 and 11 will enable you to develop your skills and knowledge to prepare you for the future. You will study for qualifications that open opportunities for you to successfully progress to further study or the world of work, supporting you in achieving your goals. Each student has different needs, abilities and ambitions and the Minster School has carefully designed a curriculum that enables everyone to succeed.

It is very important to make the best decisions regarding the subjects you choose to study throughout years 10 and 11. Staff at school will identify appropriate guidance for you to help you choose which subjects you would like to study. Most subjects are compulsory but all students are also able to choose some subjects, your options.

Choosing the right options will support your success and make sure you achieve excellent results that will help you in the future.

Important dates

Wednesday 25th January 2022	Year 9 Options Evening Event
Thursday 9th February 2022	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Monday 13th February 2022	Deadline for completing option form

National Expectations

Schools are expected to provide a key stage 4 education following the national curriculum. It is recognised that students are best served by achieving a core set of academic GCSEs, alongside other GCSE or BTEC qualifications that support individual ambitions and areas of interest.

The performance of schools is measured through national measures including:

- The percentage of students achieving a standard (grade 4) or good (grade 5) pass in both English and Maths.
- The % of students successfully achieving the EBacc suite of qualifications (English, Maths, Science, a language and History and/or Geography).
- Progress 8 – Score based on the results for students across 8 specified subjects, including Maths, English, sciences and Ebacc subjects.

It is therefore important the school provides you with a curriculum which fulfils national requirements. This will ensure that you have the best opportunity to go on to fulfil your

Timetable Restrictions

Designing a timetable for the whole school does not allow for a completely free choice for each student. This booklet is designed to guide you in making choices which can be provided next year. In particular, please note:

- The range of choices for each student is determined by the school. This is **not** a choice for individual students.
- It is not possible to provide a bespoke curriculum for a student which does not correspond to the structure set out in this booklet.
- Once all students' options have been sent in, it may become clear that certain combinations of subjects are impossible to meet. It is, therefore, essential that you indicate your **reserve choice**. If your choices cannot be met you will be consulted about changing them.

Supported Study

More practical elements of learning suit some students, along with the development of study skills and additional literacy and numeracy. These elements of the course sit alongside a suite of GCSE qualifications in all core areas with two optional subjects from a selection most likely to lead to success. Students who would benefit from this course will be identified by the Learning Support department. Students may be entered for alternative qualifications when appropriate.

Compulsory subjects	
English (Two GCSEs, one in Language and one in Literature) Mathematics Combined Science History or Geography Religious Studies PE (Not examined) Study Support	
Option subjects (choose 2 further options)	
Art & Design GCSE Business Studies GCSE Design & Technology GCSE Drama GCSE Food & Nutrition GCSE Geography GCSE	History GCSE ICT OCR National Music GCSE Music Technology NCFE PE GCSE or Cambridge National Sports Studies

How to choose the right options

- Read this booklet very carefully and talk to a variety of different people so that you can make well-informed choices. Talk to your **parent** or **carer**, who will help you identify your interests and strengths.
- Talk to your **tutor** who will have knowledge about the various subjects, support you with making decisions and will have information about your ability in different subjects.
- If you would like to discuss a specific subject at GCSE, speak to your **subject teacher**. Your teacher will be able to give you more details about the course and give you assessment information about the standard of your own work.
- If you would like specific information about qualifications for particular careers; there is further information available through the websites listed at the end of this booklet.
- Alternatively, you can email our Careers Advisor, Pilly Taylor, with specific queries at p.taylor@minster.notts.sch.uk or request a careers appointment.
- Think about what will give you satisfaction and success at the end of Year 11.

English and English Literature GCSE

English and English Literature are compulsory in Years 10 and 11. A qualification in English is essential for entry into most courses of Higher Education and a minimum standard is required for many 16+ employment opportunities.

Aims of the course

To develop students' understanding and ability in the areas of:
Reading - Writing - Speaking & Listening

Skills Required

The skills required at GCSE build on those taught in KS3 and will include:

- The ability to interpret unseen texts and support interpretations with close textual reference.
- The demonstration of a comprehensive knowledge of whole Literature Texts in response to long essay questions.
- The capacity to comment critically on a writer's use of language, form and structure.
- The ability to write both creative and discursive responses in exam conditions which achieve a high level of written accuracy.
- The ability to speak clearly and fluently in a formal context.

English Language

Students will sit two final examinations at the end of Year 11, both lasting 1hr 45 minutes. Sources for the reading questions will be literary fiction, non-fiction and literary non-fiction texts; they will be drawn from the 19th, 20th and 21st century. All reading material will be unseen.

Writing tasks will be linked to the reading content of the exam papers and will require students to write both descriptively and discursively. Greater emphasis and reward is now provided for the accuracy of students' writing in terms of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

English Literature

Students will again sit two final examinations but this time they will be 1hr 45 minutes and 2hrs 15 minutes in length.

The shorter paper will examine a play by Shakespeare and a novel written in the nineteenth century chosen from a prescribed list. Students will respond to extracts from these texts and then will discuss texts as a whole. This exam will be closed book. The longer exam demands responses to a modern drama, unseen poetry and poetry studied from an anthology.

Students will follow the AQA GCSE syllabus for both Language and Literature and, as with all exam boards, there is no tiering.

Contact: Mr M Oxley, Curriculum Team Leader for English

Mathematics GCSE

What is GCSE Mathematics all about?

GCSE Mathematics covers topics from Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Geometry and Probability and Statistics.

While studying Mathematics you will be expected to:

- use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems
- use logic and reason to solve problems
- break down problems into small steps in order to solve them
- use the Mathematics that you learn to solve problems that might happen in real life

Why do I have to take GCSE Mathematics?

GCSE Mathematics covers a lot of basic skills that you will need to use in a variety of ways all through your life and because of this it is a compulsory subject for all students in years 10 and 11.
You will use much of what you learn in GCSE Mathematics in the other GCSEs that you study; in Science you may be asked to use formulae, graphs and solve equations, in Geography you will need to read charts and diagrams and use statistics and in Technology you will need to use measures and make scale drawings. Most college and post 16 courses require GCSE Mathematics as an entry requirement, as do many jobs and careers.

Which exam board do we follow?

Students will follow the GCSE 9-1 specification. The content has been designed to be more rigorous and therefore the exam papers are more challenging. We follow the Edexcel Mathematics Linear (9-1) course. In this course there are two levels of entry:-

Higher (you can gain a grade 4,5,6,7,8 or 9)
Foundation (you can gain a grade 1,2,3,4 or 5)

Is there any coursework?

There is no coursework for GCSE Mathematics.

What about exams?

Students are examined by taking three papers at the end of the two-year course. Two will be taken with, and one without, a calculator.

How are the teaching groups arranged?

In Year 10 we arrange the year group into 10 teaching groups. These are broadly based on ability and performance during the previous three years. Within these groups we will prepare you for the level of examination in which we believe you will achieve you best overall grade. The final decision about exam entry is made in the January of Year 11.

Contact: Ms H McGregor, Curriculum Team Leader for Mathematics

Sciences GCSE

All students in Year 10 will take at least one GCSE Science course. The choices we offer through Year 10 and 11 are designed to develop your scientific understanding for the twenty-first century and will enable you to engage in the world of science as consumer, citizen and as an employee. The aim is to prepare you for future roles in an increasingly complex world and to answer questions about yourself and your place in a technological society.

What are your choices in Year 10?

Triple Science

If you have a strong interest in Science you may wish to follow the Triple Science option. In this case you will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as three separate GCSE subjects through Years 10 and 11.

If you make this choice, you will need to choose Triple Science in the Options block.

The Triple Science course covers all the contents of GCSE Combined Science (see below) but also includes additional topics, adding breadth to the subjects, for example

- structure and function of the human brain and eye (Biology)
- chemical cells and fuel cells (Chemistry)
- the life cycle of stars, supernovae and black holes (Physics).

Such topics will broaden your knowledge of science and, we hope, increase your understanding and enjoyment of the subject.

It is not necessary to choose Triple Science in order to progress to an A level Science course in Year 12.

Combined Science

This course leads to a "double award" in Year 11. You will study all three sciences. There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. The marks from these papers are combined to give your final grade in the format 8-8, 5-5, etc.

Exam boards in Year 10 and 11

Combined Science GCSE, Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs: AQA

Contact: Dr J Theobald, Curriculum Team Leader for Science

Physical Education

Aims of the Course

- To improve the range, difficulty and quality of your skills and techniques.
- To apply what you learn in increasingly demanding situations.
- To draw on what you know to make judgements about your own and others' work and plan ways to improve performance.
- To develop different roles and responsibilities, for example the role of performer, leader and official.
- To increase your knowledge and understanding of fitness and the importance of exercise and activity for personal, social and mental well being.
- To make informed decisions about getting involved in a lifetime of healthy physical activities to suit your needs.

Course content

You will receive one lesson of PE per week throughout the Key Stage (Years 10 and 11). There is an element of choice so that you can develop your knowledge, understanding and skills in preferred activities. Discovering what you like to do will help you make informed choices about life-long participation in physical activity.

The course will help you decide whether to get involved in physical activity out of school and in later life, whether that involvement is mainly focused on performing or competing, promoting health and well being or developing personal fitness.

The choices you can make are dependent on the facilities available. Students are currently following courses in well-being and fitness, basketball, badminton, football and netball, as well as other activities experienced in Key Stage 3.

Students are also able to opt to gain an Award in Dance Leadership.

Contact: Mrs S Gratton, Curriculum Team Leader for PE

Religious Studies GCSE

AQA Religious Studies A 9-1: Christianity and Islam (8062)

GCSE Religious Studies is taken by all students and combines the study of two religions in detail alongside other world religions. You will also explore Philosophical, Ethical and Moral issues. Within this course you will have the opportunity to reflect upon your own thoughts and values and have an awareness of living in a pluralistic society and a global community as well as considering the beliefs of others. Alongside this you will continue to study key Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship themes, reflecting on their importance and application in life.

Aims of the course

- To develop knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious belief.
- To develop an understanding of the influence of religion on individuals, communities and society.
- To explore different views on important moral issues.
- To draw out comparisons between your own and other peoples' viewpoints.

Course content

Beliefs, Teachings & Practices

Beliefs, Teachings and Practices - Christianity

- Nature of God
- The Trinity
- The Creation
- The problem of evil
- Jesus and salvation
- Beliefs about the afterlife

- Worship
- Prayer
- Sacraments
- Pilgrimage
- Role of the church in the community and the world

Beliefs, Teachings and Practices - Islam

- Core beliefs
- Prophets
- Sources of wisdom
- Angels
- Eschatological beliefs

- Worship (public and private)
- Five Pillars
- Jihad
- Festivals

Assessment Examination: There is 1 written exam lasting 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of the course)

Thematic Studies

Relationships and Families

- Human sexuality and relationships
- Marriage, divorce and remarriage
- Nature and purpose of marriage
- Contraception and family planning
- Religious attitudes to gender equality

Religion, Peace and Conflict

- Violence, war, pacifism, and terrorism
- Peace and peace making
- 21st Century conflict and peace
- Justice, forgiveness and reconciliation
- Religious responses to victims of war

The Existence of God

- The question of God
- Arguments for God's existence
- Ways in which people experience God e.g. miracles
- Revelation and enlightenment

Religion and life

- Origins of the universe
- The use and abuse of animals and the environment
- Abortion and euthanasia
- Death and the afterlife

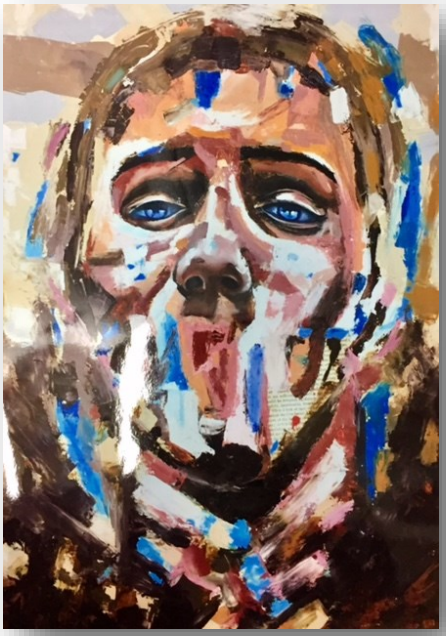
Assessment Examination: There is 1 written exam lasting 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of the course)

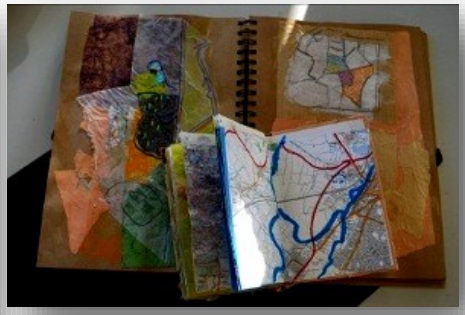
Contact: Mrs H Feehily, Curriculum Team Leader for RS

Art & Design: Fine Art GCSE

The Art & Design course specialises in Fine Art. This qualification includes working with both traditional and new media including; drawing, painting, digital photography, collage and mixed media.

It aims to develop your creative and practical skills so that you are able to work independently to produce personal and inventive artwork in an area of your own choice. You are encouraged to be experimental in the way that you use materials, exploring what is possible and taking risks that lead to original outcomes. Students are expected to be independent learners, highly motivated and enthusiastic.





The course prepares you for further studies in Art and Design related fields. Many of our students continue onto Higher Education courses including Architecture, Product Design, Fashion, Photography and of course, Fine Art.

You will also study the work of other Artists and Designers to develop an understanding and appreciation of the cultural context in which work is made. This aspect of the course develops your literacy, analytical and evaluation skills.

The Art & Design course consists of an external set task (40%) and a coursework portfolio (60%).

Contact: Mr J Govinden, Curriculum Team Leader for Art

Business Studies GCSE

What is GCSE Business Studies all about?

Business Studies will be new to you in Key Stage 4 but you will be very familiar with many key terms and ideas through TV programmes such as Dragons Den and The Apprentice. You will investigate how businesses are set up, how they expand, why they sometimes fail and how they adapt to a changing environment. We look at how different businesses market their products, how they organise and treat their workers and whether they behave ethically. Throughout the course we will use real businesses as examples to help you learn new topics such as how Lidl and Aldi have affected the grocery market or how Amazon and ASOS have embraced e-commerce.

The six topic areas are:

Business Activity - e.g. entrepreneurship and legal structures

Influences - such as changing technology, new competition and BREXIT

Business Operations - e.g. efficiency and the different methods of production

Finance - e.g. how to raise enough money to start up or expand into China

Marketing - i.e. how do businesses persuade us to buy their products?

Human Resources - including training and motivational techniques

What could I do next with GCSE Business Studies?

A good grade at GCSE will help you move on to any A level course. If you enjoyed your Business Studies GCSE, you might want to continue with Business Studies at A level or study a related area such as Economics.

What other skills might I develop?

You will learn how to research information from a range of sources and present it in a variety of ways. You can get experience of using data, statistics and ICT software such as word processing and spread sheets. You will acquire skills, knowledge and understanding that will be highly valued by employers and will be useful in the world of work. A GCSE in Business Studies is a stepping stone to a whole range of future opportunities.

Contact: Mr P Bowes, Curriculum Team Leader for Social Studies, Business Studies and Economics

Computer Science GCSE

Why study Computing?

The United Kingdom has been responsible for many of the key developments in the history of Computer Science and it is seen as an industry in which the country can compete globally.

'Digital Britain' is a phrase used to talk about the growing importance of Computer Science skills. The computer game industry is bigger than both the music and film industries in the UK. Coding or jobs requiring coding are one of the UKs fastest growing areas with a high level of employability.

Computer Science is also considered to be a challenging subject that prepares you for work, sixth form and university.

What you will learn?

At the end of this course you will understand the components of computer systems, what they are and what they do. You will learn how to program and will develop programming techniques in order to create a number of different applications and programs. You will learn how to design and use complex software to create projects. The most important aspect of Computer Science is problem solving, an essential skill for life. You will learn skills that will play a key part of any career path you take.

Will I be good at Computer Science?

The sort of student that takes Computer Science is likely to be good at Maths, Music & Languages, enjoy solving problems and be creative. Computer Science is a subject which helps develop your problem solving ability and logical thinking.

Is it different from ICT?

Very different. Computer Science looks at how the computer works and how you can create programs to real world problems. It is a more technical subject that offers an in-depth look into a fascinating and important subject of software development.

ASSESSMENT

Exam Board – OCR Syllabus – GCSE Computer Science Assessment - 2 x exam

Computer Science GCSE

Course Content

Unit 1 & Unit 2 - Computer Systems and Programming
How you will be assessed - Examination

What you will learn
All about modern computers, programming techniques, the internet and networks. You will be able to explain how computers work and will understand how they can be connected to a network in order to share files and information. You will leave the course with a really good understanding of basic computer systems, including how they are put together.

Component 01 – Computer Systems: The first component is focused on computer systems covering the physical elements of computer science and the associated theory.

Component 02 – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming: This component is focused on the core theory of computer science and the application of computer science principles.

What you will learn
You will complete a series of challenges involving learning programming skills in different languages. You will learn a number of different ways to solve problems using programming techniques to create algorithms and will be able to confidently create your own solutions. You will have experienced creating a Computer Science solution to solve a problem using your own creative ability and will be able to focus on areas that will be of most use to you and match your own interests.

Contact: Mr S Lang, Curriculum Team Leader for Computer Science & ICT

Design and Technology GCSE

This Design and Technology qualification is engaging and inspiring, through the way in which the course is constructed and delivered, allowing the merging of material areas.

Design and Technology enables you to understand and apply iterative design processes through which you explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. The qualification enables you to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering your own and others' needs, wants and values.

Design and Technology builds on Key Stage 3, incorporating knowledge and understanding of different materials and manufacturing processes in order to design and make, with confidence, prototypes in response to issues, needs, problems and opportunities.

You learn how to take creative design risks, helping you to become resourceful, innovative and enterprising citizens. Through the critique of the outcomes of Design and Technology activity, both historic and present day, you will develop an understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world and understand that high-quality Design and Technology is important to the creativity, culture, sustainability, wealth and wellbeing of the nation and the global community.

Component 1

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes - 50% of the qualification (100 marks)

The content is divided into two sections: core content and material categories. You will study the core content plus one material category. You will be required to choose from the following material areas in order of preference:

Papers and boards **Systems** **Textiles** **Timbers**

Component 2

Non-examined assessment: 50% of the qualification (100 marks)

You will undertake a project as part of your non-examination assessment which will be set by the exam board. You are required to analyse a given contextual challenge from a range of three on an individual basis.

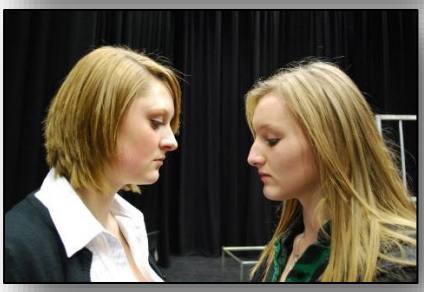
Having selected a contextual challenge to work on within your chosen material area, you should develop a range of potential ideas and then realise one through practical making activities. The project must allow you to apply knowledge and understanding in a product development process to investigate, design, make and evaluate your prototype.

This project will require you to follow an iterative design process rather than a linear process requiring you to continually test, evaluate and refine ideas.

Contact: Mr A Mellor, Curriculum Team Leader for Design and Technology

Drama GCSE

GCSE Drama is an exciting and dynamic course, which builds on the creative and inter-personal skills developed at Key Stage 3. GCSE Drama is assessed through a combination of a 40% written exam and 60% practical exploration and performance.



Aims of the Course

The specification aims to develop a wide range of skills for students of all abilities, such as:

- Planning, organising and making performances.
- Developing acting and performance skills.
- Making decisions and using your initiative.
- Expressing yourself clearly and confidently.
- Building relationships and working well with others.
- Taking on roles of responsibility.
- Reflection and evaluation.

Units

Component 1: Devising Theatre. Worth 40%

Students will work in a small group to devise and perform a piece of original theatre from a stimulus and evaluate their performance in a 900 word written portfolio .

Component 2 : Performing Theatre. Worth 20%

Students will participate in a small group performance to a visiting examiner of two key extracts from a play text. Students may specialise in acting, lighting, costume or sound design.

Component 3 : Written Examination. Worth 40%

This unit is a written exam. In section 1, students will study and practically explore a set text, developing knowledge and understanding of the characteristics and context of the whole play and how the play might be interpreted for performance both as a performer and a designer. In section 2, students will visit the theatre and watch a professional production, analysing and evaluating how successfully the production communicated meaning to the audience.

You will probably enjoy this course if...

- You work well with others and like being creative as part of a team.
- You enjoy both devising your own drama and exploring plays.
- You enjoy and want to develop at performing.
- You want to experience live theatre productions and work with professional theatre companies.

ASSESSMENT

Component 1 : Marked by your teacher

Component 2 : Marked by a visiting examiner

Component 3 : Marked by the exam board

Contact: Mr D Brown, Curriculum Team Leader for Drama

Economics GCSE

What is GCSE Economics all about?

Economics is a highly respected GCSE. It's also very easy to apply to the real world. Our economic performance since the deep and long lasting downturn of 2008 has been poor and it has taken many years to achieve stable growth. Some major events have contributed to recent uncertainty in the economy such as COVID and the UK leaving the EU. If you are interested in learning about how these events have affected growth, unemployment, inflation and international trade, then Economics might be the subject for you.

What topics are covered?

Economics, at every level, is split into macroeconomics and microeconomics:

Microeconomics

- Resource allocation - how should we use the resources we have available?
- Demand, supply and price determination - why do oil prices fluctuate so much?
- Production, costs, revenues and profit - why are big companies more efficient than small companies?
- Competitive and concentrated markets - why are some industries dominated by a few businesses?
- Market failure - how do we deal with pollution or obesity? What are the solutions?

Macroeconomics

- Government economic objectives - such as low unemployment
- How the government manages the economy - e.g. by changing income tax rates
- International trade and the global economy - we need to trade. So why leave the EU?
- The role of money and financial markets - including the difference between investment banks and commercial banks

ASSESSMENT

This course is assessed through two exam papers lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes each. Both papers contain multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended questions. Your numeracy skills will be tested in both papers and your written communication skills will be fully put to the test in the extended answer questions.

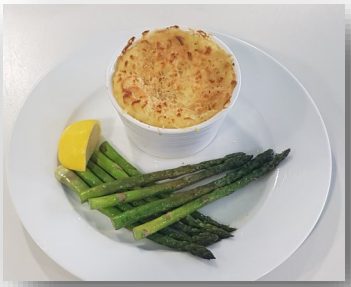
Contact: Mr P Bowes, Curriculum Team Leader for Social Studies, Business Studies and Economics

Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE

This exciting GCSE Food course is designed to teach you the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It is delivered through a wide range of different food preparation skills and making activities.

There are 5 main topics of study: Food, Nutrition and Health, Food Science, Food Safety, Food Choice and Food Provenance. You will develop a wide range of effective and safe practical cooking skills using a variety of ingredients, cooking techniques and equipment.

The course is 50% Non Examined Assessment (NEA) and 50% Final examination, all of which is undertaken in Y11. The NEA includes a Food Investigation and a final Food Preparation Task which will require you to produce a portfolio on a given task then prepare, cook and present a final menu of 3 dishes within a set amount of time.


Teaching and Learning Methods

Within Design and Technology a practical approach is taken across all material areas using a variety of methods to develop your knowledge and skills, such as: experimental practical work; group work; practical activities to learn specific skills; using ICT to design, research, model and develop ideas and concepts; and manufacture part or whole products.

You will be supported within the NEA challenges and intermediate deadlines will be set throughout, so that you can be focused in achieving your best possible result.



Contact: Mr A Mellor, Curriculum Team Leader for Design and Technology

Geography GCSE

Geography is a subject which will help you to understand what is happening in the world, from the local to the global scales. This syllabus has a focus on environmental issues and sustainability. It requires a range of skills and techniques which you will be able to use for A-level and Higher Education or after you leave school.

Aims of the Course

To enable you to:

- make sense of your physical and human surroundings;
- acquire knowledge and understanding of a range of places, environments and geographical patterns at a range of scales from local to global;
- develop a sense of place and an appreciation of the environment, as well as awareness of the ways in which people and environments interact, and the importance of sustainable development;
- develop an understanding of global citizenship;
- appreciate that the study of geography is dynamic;
- acquire and apply skills and techniques;
- develop intellectual and social skills needed to conduct geographical study and enquiry.

Course content

There are a number of key themes within this specification:

- Global Hazards
- Changing Climate
- Distinctive Landscape
- Sustaining Ecosystems
- Urban Futures
- Dynamic Development
- UK in the 21st Century
- Resource Reliance

Geographical skills and fieldwork will also be covered through these themes.

Geography GCSE

Teaching and Learning Methods

A variety of methods will be used including working outside the classroom, watching videos, note taking, group work, individual research, completing worksheets and using text resources.

Homework will be set regularly to support classroom work. You will also be set tests and sample questions at intervals in the course to help you to learn and to assist teachers in assessing your performance.

It is a course requirement for all students to complete two days of fieldwork away from the school grounds. It will be expected that all students take part in these fieldwork activities.

ASSESSMENT

Our Natural World 35% of total GCSE
Assesses global hazards, changing climate, distinctive landscape
Sustaining ecosystems, fieldwork and geographical skills. 70 marks. 1 hour 15 minutes. written paper.

People and Society 35% of total GCSE
Assesses urban futures, dynamic development, UK in the 21st Century, resource reliance, fieldwork and geographical skills. 70 marks. 1 hour 15 minutes. written paper.

Geographical Exploration 30% of total GCSE
Assesses geographical skills and includes a decision making exercise. 60 marks. 1 hour 30 minutes. Written paper.

Contact: Mrs F Summers, Curriculum Team Leader for Humanities

History GCSE

Why study History?

INTEREST:

History is an interesting and exciting subject taught by a successful and experienced department. History lessons are enjoyable and encourage students to get involved rather than simply learn a body of knowledge. Lessons use a wide range of thinking skills and techniques which are transferable to other areas of the curriculum including role-play, group and individual project work, ICT, debates and discussion as well as more 'traditional' activities. Crucial to our approach is the notion of History as a thinking, arguing subject based on different kinds of evidence and different points of view.

SKILLS:

History develops essential skills that young people need to succeed at school and in their future life. History is a well-respected qualification which employers and universities value highly. Interpersonal skills are the single most important skills used in any career. History enables students to think for themselves, to question why we and other people live as we do, to communicate effectively, to understand a wide range of opinions and interpretations, to use a wide range of literacy, numeracy and personal skills to deal with information, to work with people and to think critically about complex issues.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR VISITS:

The History department is committed to providing a range of extra-curricular visits for students and 'history outside the classroom'. At GCSE all students will be offered the chance to visit the First World War battlefields of Belgium and France and the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre.

The History course at GCSE is open to anybody who wants to get some understanding of the world we live in. History is about the world around us and who we are. The skills you develop will benefit you in any walk of life. All you need is interest and enthusiasm and a commitment to work.

History GCSE

What will you study?

Students studying History at The Minster School will follow the Edexcel GCSE History specification. This has been designed to allow students to study a variety of different types and periods of history and develop a range of skills. The course will see students tackle social and political history, in local, national and international contexts, and investigate many developments that have shaped our world today.

ASSESSMENT

PAPER 1 (30%)

Medicine in Britain, 1250 to the present

A study of the historic environment - The British Sector of the Western Front 1914-1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches

Students will explore the move from supernatural explanations to more rational theories of the causes of disease and illness and examine the changing approaches to prevention and treatment. The historic environment section of the paper will see students explore treatments provided for soldiers on the Western Front, including those suffering from the effects of gas attacks, shrapnel wounds and illness arising from the trench environment.

PAPER 2 (40%)

Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c.1060-88

We will explore society in the last years of Edward the Confessor and how William, Duke of Normandy secured victory in the Battle of Hastings. We will also examine revolt and rebellion and changes made to English society under Norman rule.

The American West, c.1835-1895

Students will examine the means and motivations for the huge movement westwards in America in the 19th century. They will consider how this migration impacted on those who took part, but also how it led to the destruction of the way of life of one population: the Plains Indians.

PAPER 3 (30%)

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939

Students will study the failure and collapse of the Weimar Government set up after the First World War and how Hitler managed to build up support for the Nazi Party. We will then study the impact of the Nazi dictatorship on life in Germany.

Contact: Mrs R Gibson, Curriculum Team Leader for History

Cambridge National in IT
OCR Level 2

Why study ICT?

Good use of Information Technology is an essential part of any successful business. It enables creative and collaborative working, solving of problems and use of the best techniques and technologies to communicate meaningful information, manage successful projects and deliver software solutions which meets customers' needs.

What you will learn?

The course is broken down into the following areas:

- Project management - Project initiation, planning and review for a exam board given purpose.
- Effective use of Business Software - to manage & analyse data.
- Creating an Augmented Reality prototype - Designing, creating and evaluation of an Augmented Reality prototype that you will create to the exam boards specification.
- Solving problems by exploring different software application tools and techniques to create IT solutions and digital products.

How can I use what I learn in ICT?

IT covers a wide range of topics that are designed to prepare you for success in whatever path you take by providing you with key IT skills that have been identified by leading businesses in the IT sector. IT is a subject that will help support your work in a range of subjects, as well as prepare you well for the use of IT in education and future career choices.

Will I be good at ICT?

You will need to have an interest in how ICT is used in a business setting and new developments in the IT sector. IT suits people who have a wide range of interests and understand how important their IT ability will be in a range of different possible future careers. IT suits a wide range of learners and can be customised to include projects that suit your own strengths.

Is it different from Computing?

Very different. This qualification which will raise your confidence in using IT and plugs the potential gaps in digital skills and knowledge not covered by studying computing. You will gain the right combination of knowledge, understanding and skills required for the 21st century.

ASSESSMENT

Exam Board – OCR Syllabus – Level 2 IT Assessment - 1 x exam and 2 x practical projects

Cambridge National in IT
OCR Level 2

Course content

R050: IT in the digital world **Assessed by an exam**

What you will learn

An understanding of different technologies (hardware and software applications), and tools and techniques used to select, store, manipulate and present data and information.

This qualification will enable you to learn about the different design tools that can be used, the principles of human computer interfaces and the use of data and testing when creating IT solutions or products. You will also understand the uses of Internet of Everything and the application of this in everyday life.

R060: Data manipulation using spreadsheets **Assessed by a coursework**

What you will learn

In this unit you will learn how to plan, design, create, test and evaluate a data manipulation spreadsheet solution to meet client's requirements. You will be able to evaluate your solution based on the user requirements. Topics include:

o Planning and designing the spreadsheet solution

o Creating the spreadsheet solution

o Testing the spreadsheet solution

o Evaluating the spreadsheet solution.

R070: Using Augmented Reality to present information **Assessed by a coursework**

What you will learn

In this unit you will learn how to design, create, test and review an Augmented Reality model prototype to meet a client's requirements. Topics include:

o Augmented Reality (AR)

o Designing an Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype

o Creating an Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype

o Testing and reviewing.

You will develop the knowledge and skills relating to the purpose, use and types of Augmented Reality (AR) in different contexts and how it is used on different digital devices. You will develop the skills to design, create, test and review an AR model prototype.

Contact: Mr S Lang, Curriculum Team Leader for Computing & ICT

Music GCSE

GCSE Music is an interesting subject with academic and practical traits, allowing you to extend and develop your musical interests and skills. Studying music is not only for students who wish to pursue a life in the music industry, it is a creative and challenging subject which is recognised to prepare individuals for further study and a wide range of careers.

The most important requirements for taking Music at GCSE is a passion for the subject and a commitment to practise an instrument/voice regularly. In addition to performance, you will learn to compose original ideas (with access to music technology); explore music of different styles and cultures; and develop your analytical approach to music.

Aims of the Course

GCSE Music aims to develop musical skill, knowledge and understanding through
Listening, Performing and Composing.

You will study a wide range of music from the following areas of study: Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions. You will learn to recognise different instruments, say specific things about the way they are used and about structures and techniques that are used to compose the music they play. Your final listening examination will contain questions based on Units from the four Areas of Study.

It is expected that you will want to share your performance skills with others and do so regularly throughout the two years of the course. It is expected that students studying GCSE Music will have regular tuition in their first instrument/voice. A solo performance and an ensemble performance will be submitted at the end of the course.

Composition is a skill you will continue to develop throughout the course. Using notation software such as Sibelius, or music technology including GarageBand or Logic, you will explore and develop original ideas based on your understanding of the set works studied. This is your opportunity to compose in your own style and bring some creative flair to lessons! Two individual compositions will be submitted for assessment at the end of the course.

Contact: Mrs H Wallis-Windle, Director of Music

BTEC (First) in Music Technology Level 2

A BTEC in Music Technology is a great choice for students looking for a practical and creative qualification. The course aims to provide students with the relevant skills and knowledge that employers value, as well as the confidence to progress into a fulfilling, exciting career in a creative industry.

2 core units

1. The Music Industry (Externally assessed written exam)
2. Managing a Music Product (Internally assessed)

2 optional units

1. Introducing Music Recording
2. Introducing Music Sequencing

The Units (in brief)

1. The Music Industry

Students will gain an understanding of the music industry and the jobs, roles and organisations within the industry. You will also look at venue choices, transport, equipment hire and license agencies. Students will be required to take into consideration health and safety issues that arise throughout the industries.

This unit is assessed externally using a paper-based exam marked by Edexcel.

The exam consists of a variety of question types including, multiple choice, short-answer questions and one extended writing opportunity at the end of the examination paper.

2. Managing a Music Product (can merge this with the showcase unit of GCSE)

This unit will enable you to manage the planning, delivery and promotion of a live concert, CD or other musical product. It will need to show excellent planning skills for your role and these planning skills will lead to the end performance.

You will need to:

Plan, develop and deliver a music product

Promote a music product

Review the management of a music product

This unit is assessed internally and will be externally verified by Edexcel.

Continued on the next page

Contact: Mrs H Wallis-Windle, Director of Music

BTEC (First) in Music Technology Level 2

3. Introducing Music Recording

This unit is centred around your ability to record and create successful multi track recordings. You will record from different audio sources, control input levels, use correct mics and mic placement and mix these sounds accordingly using basic processing. You will learn who to use the equipment safely and will learn how to record effectively and efficiently.

You will need to:

A. Plan a recording session
B. Use recording equipment safely to produce multi-track recordings
C.

This unit is assessed internally and will be externally verified by Edexcel

4. Introducing Music Sequencing

You will learn how to create music using a variety of resources including loops and software instruments. You will learn how to edit your tracks using a range of different edit techniques. You will also look at learning how to enhance the sound of a piece of music using different plug ins. You can use your knowledge to create either original music of a creative arrangement of music written by others.

You will need to:

A. Explore music sequencing techniques
B. Use music sequencing software to create music

This unit is assessed internally and will be externally verified by Edexcel

How is the course marked:
You can gain:

- Distinction*
- Distinction
- Merit
- Pass

Contact: Mrs H Wallis-Windle, Director of Music

Physical Education GCSE

You should have an interest in PE and sport, enjoy being active

Aims of the Course

- To improve your knowledge, skills and understanding of a range of physical activities.
- To foster an enjoyment of sports through physical activity.
- To become increasingly effective in your performance in different types of physical activity.
- To understand how the body works during exercise and learn which factors affect performance.
- To understand safety aspects and risk assessment in sport and physical activity.
- To identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity.

Course Content

Theoretical Component

The course is examination-based after you have studied different units of work such as Physical Factors, Affecting Performance and Socio-Cultural Issues and Sports Psychology. The theoretical component is the main component of the qualification.

Practical Component

The course is assessed on Performance in Physical Education. You will pursue a range of activities for which you are given marks. The categories from which sports must be chosen are listed on the OCR website and will be shared with you at the start of the course. (Any sport currently being performed out of school may also be assessed e.g., golf).

Analysis

An analysis of performance must be produced on technique, coaching and training, this counts towards your final mark.

Teaching and Learning Methods

A variety of methods will be used both inside the classroom and in practical situations. You will produce notes and complete assignments whilst learning the course's theoretical content. The practical component will be delivered in the gym, sports hall or outside. You will need to be fully involved during this aspect of the course.

Students may study either GCSE PE *or* Cambridge National Sports Studies but not both. School staff will use our knowledge of students to determine which is the more appropriate course for each individual.

ASSESSMENT Examination: 60% Practical: 30% Analysis: 10%

Contact: Mrs S Gratton, Curriculum Team Leader for PE

Cambridge National in Sports Studies

Who is it for?

Anyone who has an interest in PE and sport. The course is designed in a way that it assesses students using a variety of methods, making it more suitable for some students. There are both theoretical and practical elements to the course (detailed below) the majority of these being coursework-based elements.

What will I learn?

Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics, the role of promoting sporting values, the use of technology in sport and the role of National Governing Bodies. Students will develop their understanding of provision for different types of outdoor and adventurous activities in the UK. Whilst having the opportunity to plan and participate in an outdoor and adventurous activity.

How and when will I be assessed?

Year 10

Unit 1 – Sport and The Media (theory)

Unit 2 – Performance and leadership in sports activities (practical/theory)

Year 11

Unit 3 – Contemporary issues in sport (Exam)

Students may study either GCSE PE *or* Cambridge National Sports Studies but not both. School staff will use our knowledge of students to determine which is the more appropriate course for each individual.

ASSESSMENT As detailed above

Contact: Mr J Greaves

Study Support

A small number of students will be invited to join a Study Support teaching group.

This teaching group exists to support students towards achieving their full potential in English, Maths and Science. The group is designed to support those students who may be at risk of not achieving passes in these subjects, based on their performance in Key Stage 3, their Key Stage 2 assessments and the CATS tests taken in school during Year 7. During these lessons, students will be supported by a team of teachers who will give additional help with what is being studied in Core subjects at that time. Activities will include: full lessons; extension tasks; small group support; revision activities; and independent study. The focus of lessons will change each half term to meet the needs of the students within the group, based upon progress data and student feedback.

Students will be invited to join this group through discussion with the Learning Support Department and analysis of Assessment Point data in Year 9.

Contact: Mr Price r.price@minster.notts.sch.uk for Learning support information

Modern Foreign Languages GCSE
French, German and Spanish

We are delighted to be able to offer French, German and Spanish to GCSE.
You may select any language(s) you have studied in Year 9.

Aims of the Course

In French, German and Spanish the aims are the same:

- to help you understand and appreciate different countries, cultures, people and communities
- to allow you to develop the skills needed to use and understand the language
- to lay the foundations for future study of other languages.

Course Content

In all three languages the work in Years 10 and 11 builds on what you have been doing in Years 7, 8 and 9. You continue to practise the everyday language needed when you visit foreign countries. Topics of in depth study include:

- Relationships with your family and friends, marriage/partnership
- Healthy and unhealthy living
- Free-time including social media and mobile technology, music, cinema and TV
- Your religion, holidays, global issues such as the environment, poverty and homelessness
- School life, careers and the world of work.

As your language skills improve, you will become more confident in using the language and have the ability to go into much greater depth when talking about issues which interest you.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The emphasis will be on communication in the target language. You will be actively involved in French, German or Spanish lessons and will regularly use a variety of stimuli to engage with the language such as authentic texts, songs, video clips and audio sources. You will cover the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Homework will involve extended written work, learning vocabulary, reading and listening exercises using Active Learn, grammar and translation using the workbook and speaking preparation.

ASSESSMENT

Linear exams at the end of the course assessing students in all four skills.
Listening 25% Writing 25% Reading 25% Speaking 25%

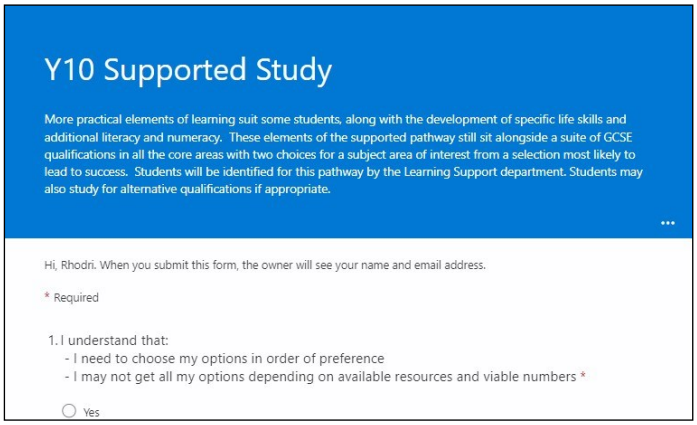
Contact:, Miss A Walter Curriculum Team Leaders for Modern Foreign Languages

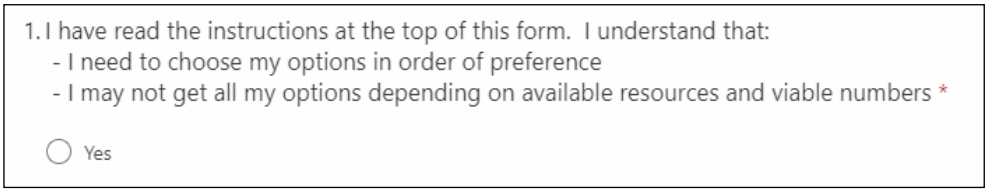
Completing Your Options Form

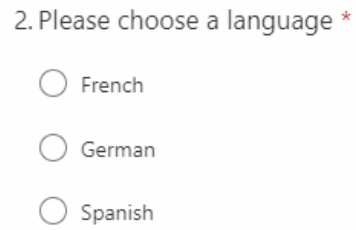
Your options form is very important. It is used to select your GCSE subjects for Year 10. It is critical that you take your time when filling it in.

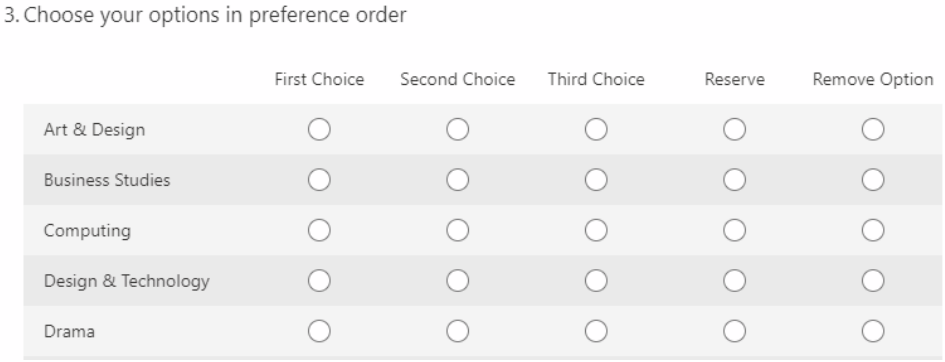
Carefully read this guide about how to answer each question.

You can gain access to this form through your school email account.







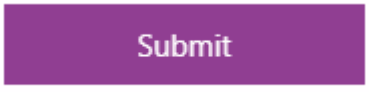


1. Reading the instructions
Make sure you understand what you will need to fill in before completing the form

2. Choosing your language option
You must choose one language. If you want to take a second language then you can select it in the wider options grid.

3. Choosing your other options
You must choose one option in each column - these should be in order of preference. You must also choose a reserve. Usethe remove option if you click on the wrong thing

4. Make sure you submit your form!



Websites and resources for students

As you explore your GCSE Options, you may wish to use the following resources to help to inform your decisions:

BBC Bitesize: bbc.co.uk./bitesize/careers

This website has recently added a new section with very useful advice about careers. This includes ideas for careers linked to a range of subject areas, information about the qualifications required for a range of careers and more.

There is a short video and web page about choosing your GCSE options which is particularly helpful:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrjh92p

National Careers Service: http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

This is the largest collection of information, advice and guidance about education and careers. It is recommended that all students visit this website where you can find out about specific careers, learn about your skills, get advice on how to write a CV and find education courses. The service also offers live chat advice and a telephone helpline for those who need further help following their interview.

Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk

This website offers broad advice about careers, including a list of potential careers that may result from each type of degree. It also lists events around the country for those interested in certain career fields.

The Minster School Sixth Form: www.minster.notts.sch.uk/sixthform

We know that many students will already be planning to return to our Sixth Form. Our website and prospectus give further information about the A level courses that we offer, our entry requirements and enrichment activities.

UCAS: www.ucas.com

This website can be used to research potential university courses, and the subjects and grades which are required for each course.

Notes and Thoughts

Notes and Thoughts

Information compiled by
Mr A Wall Deputy Head Teacher

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