



# The Dixie Grammar

Senior School

**GCSE Prospectus  
For entry in September 2018**

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to inform you and your parents about:

- the curriculum in Years 10 and 11 leading to GCSE;
- the choices you will have to make as a result of the division of subjects into a compulsory core and supporting options;
- subject content and the way in which it is assessed.

**The Curriculum:** The purpose of the curriculum to GCSE is to keep open as many options as possible for careers and higher education, while allowing some specialisation in accordance with your own particular abilities and interests.

**Examination Subjects:** All students study English Language, Biology, Chemistry and Physics (leading either to three separate qualifications or to Double Award Science for which two grades will be awarded), Mathematics and a European language (French or German). Students will take the International GCSE (IGCSE) in all these subjects except for the modern language which will be a standard GCSE. In addition, almost all students will be prepared for a separate IGCSE in English Literature.

In addition to the above you will be able to choose three more courses from: Art, Design & Technology, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Geography, German, History, Computer Science, Mandarin, Music, Physical Education and Religious Studies. These courses lead to the GCSE qualification except in the case of Geography and PE which are both IGCSE courses.

This means that normally you will take between eight and ten subjects. Much more important than the *number* of subjects, however, is the *quality* of the results. Taking ten subjects will make considerable demands on your time and may lead to under-performance. Your teachers will advise you at the appropriate time which courses they think are right for you. For example, if your main strengths and interests are in languages, or Art or Music, you may be advised to take Double Award Science rather than the three separate sciences so that you will have more time for those subjects.

## ***Making the Choice***

Before you make your choices you will need to think things out carefully and discuss your ideas with your parents, your teachers and the Careers Department.

You should try to make sure that you are not leaving out a subject that will be useful to support a likely future A level or degree option, or your chosen career. (In fact, many of the subjects likely to be needed in this way are included in the compulsory section of the Year 10/11 curriculum.)

You should also check the course content of each subject to make sure it matches both your wishes and your capabilities. Obviously you are much more likely to do well if you choose subjects which you enjoy and at which you are already reasonably successful. Don't choose a subject just because your friends are doing it, or because you get on well with a particular teacher – the course may be taught by someone else next year.

The rest of this booklet contains brief descriptions of all the GCSE courses.

### **Finally, please note two points:**

1. Although we will do everything we can to give you the particular three subjects that you have chosen, we cannot guarantee that this will happen. It is sometimes beyond our ingenuity to fit all your choices into a workable timetable.

2. Occasionally we get too many people opting for a subject. We always look to run as many classes as there is demand for, but very occasionally we must reluctantly turn away those who are least suitable. The final choice of students for an over-subscribed course depends on:

- the aptitude and commitment a student has previously shown in this subject;
- the student's career objectives;
- the student's balance of options.

## Careers Education and Guidance

Careers work began lower down the school and continues in Years 10 and 11. Students are introduced to Inspiring Futures, of which the School is a member, in Year 10. At the beginning of Year 11 all students undertake psychometric profiling and receive one to one guidance through their individualised profile. Work is done throughout Year 11 to develop and maintain this profile as an ongoing record of achievement.

Students are always welcome to visit the Careers Room and are able to use the resources when discussing and choosing a post-16 course with their Form Teacher, subject and PSHCE staff and the Head of Careers. Requests for information are always welcome. Students also have the opportunity to meet a variety of professionals, discuss experiences and share useful tips for future career choices during lunchtime sessions. Regular updates on a wide variety of careers together with information about courses and opportunities and informative sessions by external providers are communicated through the Student Bulletins. A work experience/placement opportunity, for Year 11 students takes place after the GCSE Examinations.

# CORE SUBJECTS

## English Language & English Literature IGCSE

All students follow the Edexcel IGCSE 'B' specification for English Language and most also take the Edexcel IGCSE in English Literature.

### *English Language*

The English Language course assesses students' ability to:

1. Read material and analyse what it says, how it says it and what it means (comprehension)
2. Write in a variety of different forms - e.g. to entertain, to argue a case, to describe.

The course is assessed by a single three-hour examination. This tests students' ability to read for meaning via comprehension tasks on previously unseen material and their ability to write for different purposes and audiences.

### *English Literature*

English Literature is taken by the majority of students and taught alongside English Language. It is **not** part of the option scheme. Occasionally, students may not be entered for English Literature to enable them to concentrate on achieving the best possible grade in English Language. This decision is not normally taken until after the Mock Examinations in Year 11.

**Paper 1** is taken by **all** students and worth **60%** of the final grade. This assesses students' ability to analyse poetry (including previously unseen material) and a modern prose text (for example, 'Of Mice and Men').

For the remaining **40%** of the qualification, there are two possible routes – coursework or a second examination paper. The route taken will be determined by the class teacher after consideration of what is best for a particular group.

Students will therefore **either** produce two pieces of coursework: one based on a modern drama text (for example 'An Inspector Calls') and one on a 'literary heritage' text (for example, 'Great Expectations') **or** sit an exam that requires essay responses to these texts.

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-english-language-b-2016.html>

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-english-literature-2016.html>

## Core Language (French or German)

Language skills are essential in today's world, so students at Dixie are required to study at least one European language to GCSE. Those who are capable are encouraged to study both French and German and students opting to continue with just one language are allowed to choose either one of these languages. A GCSE in either subject represents a valuable asset in its own right and can also serve as a stepping stone to an A level language qualification, which is held in the highest regard in today's global workplace.

The qualification for both French and German builds on the learning that has taken place up to Year 9, during which students will have encountered most of the grammar and most of the topics needed at GCSE level.

Through regular discussion in class, written work and exercises with texts and audio material, students will have the opportunity to improve their competence and skills in relation to a number of key topic areas, including:

- Me, my family and my friends
- Technology
- Free time
- My home and region
- Social issues
- Global issues
- Travel and tourism
- School and my studies
- Jobs and career ambitions

All four skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking will be assessed by examination at the end of Year 11 and both French and German follow the new, approved AQA GCSE specification, which can be found via the following links:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658> ,

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/german-8668> .

## Mathematics

At The Dixie Grammar School, we aim to nurture an enthusiasm for Mathematics, build confidence and equip our students with the essential mathematical skills needed in both the work place and the wider world.

In the next two years you will extend and consolidate your knowledge of concepts and techniques in the areas of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry and statistics towards the International GCSE.

The Edexcel International GCSE consists of two examinations, each two hours long. There is no coursework. The makeup of each examination is 57 – 63% Number and Algebra, 22-28% Geometry, 12 – 18% Statistics and Probability.

The Higher Tier enables grades 9-4 to be obtained. Generally, all students are entered for the Higher Tier; however occasionally the Foundation Tier may be considered for some individuals.

The International GCSE course includes several topics which do not feature in the GCSE Mathematics course and therefore we feel this is an excellent preparation for those who wish to study Mathematics further.

The specification and past papers for the course can be found at:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-mathematics-a-2016.html>

## Science

The aim of the Science Department is to equip every student with an all-round understanding and interest in science. This should help them to understand scientific issues and make informed decisions when they leave school. It will also give a solid foundation for those who wish to go on and pursue science related careers. To achieve this all students are expected to study all three subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) as part of their IGCSE course.

The School teaches the Edexcel International GCSE specification, as this prepares students well for A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Much of the material taught in Year 9 is fundamental to the IGCSE course and the material covered will be needed for the final examination. In Year 10 the students are put in sets for science depending on their interest and aptitude and based on their Year 9 exam results. They will all continue to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics taught by specialist teachers throughout their IGCSE course.

Set 1 work towards separate IGCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This is a demanding course as no extra teaching time is given and is suitable only for the most able students with a particular interest in science. Other students will work towards a Double Award Science.

Students who work well in Year 10 may be given the opportunity to move into the separate Science Set at the start of Year 11. There is complete flexibility between the sets up to the mock examinations in Year 11. Likewise, some students who are struggling may be moved into the Dual Science Group. In certain situations it may be possible for students to be entered into a single combined science IGCSE. Final decisions about entry are made after Mock Exams following consultation with students, parents and staff.

These courses share core material and both prepare students for A-level. It is not departmental policy to enter students for just one separate science as it is felt that this does not give the students a wide enough understanding of science as a whole.

Links to Specifications:

[Edexcel International GCSE Biology](#)

[Edexcel International GCSE Chemistry](#)

[Edexcel International GCSE Physics](#)

[Edexcel International GCSE Science: Double Award](#)

# OPTION SUBJECTS

## Art

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GCSE Art consists of two elements: coursework (60%) and a controlled examination (40%). You will be asked to produce a body of coursework, and the examination lasts a total of ten hours.

The choice of coursework is left to the discretion of the student who, with the help of department staff, will map out their own areas of interest to study over the two years of the course. However, the teaching of drawing skills is fundamental, as it is our belief that success in every area of Art starts with drawing. These drawing skills feed into projects on graphic design, textiles, mixed media, painting, ceramics, etc., as coursework components.

<http://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-art-and-design-j170-j176-from-2016/>

## Computer Science

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Computers are ubiquitous in modern life. Today's young people are expected to be competent digital citizens whether learning, working or socialising. Understanding how digital technology works and being able to develop solutions to problems by writing computer programs are highly sought after skills in the modern world.

### **Edexcel International GCSE Computer Science (4CP0)**

Our current GCSE-level Computer Science specification avoids the non-examined assessment which has been problematic recently. The course is firmly based around problem solving and programming. Our teaching language is Python; this is one of the most widely used programming languages and is used as the main teaching language by the majority of universities.

The Computer Science iGCSE uses a range of interesting and engaging contexts to test the knowledge, skills and understanding of the students. The focus is on practical problem solving but with a good dose of academic rigour so that the specification builds solid foundations for A level. The topics covered are:

1. Problem solving
2. Programming
3. Data
4. Computers
5. Communications and the Internet
7. The bigger picture (emerging trends, issues and impact)

The assessment breaks down as follows:

### **Paper 1:**

Principles of Computer Science (written exam)

This 2-hour exam assesses knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of computer science. It consists of a mix of multiple choice, short and longer answer questions. It is worth 50% of the marks.

### **Paper 2:**

Application of Computational Thinking (written exam)

This 3-hour exam covers the practical application of computational thinking. Students are required to interpret, create and amend algorithms; develop and test programs; show an understanding of data representation and storage; and to construct and interpret logical statements, truth tables and pseudocode. It is worth 50% of the marks.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-computer-science-2017.html>

## **Design & Technology**

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### **Introduction**

Studying Design and Technology offers students the exciting opportunity to identify and solve real problems through designing and making products. They will be given the opportunity to use their imagination and learn through practical experimentation. The subject brings together skills and knowledge from many other subject areas, in particular the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Students considering the course should therefore have an interest, and reasonable ability in maths and science, as well as the desire to be creative.

### **At The Dixie Grammar School**

The department has a well-equipped IT/Graphics room and workshop, for example the IT/Graphics room contains several CAD/CAM machines such as a 3D printer and laser cutter. Students will be placed in small groups, with no more than 13 in a class. This is extremely beneficial as it allows students the freedom to explore their own individual projects, whilst receiving a high level of support from staff.

### **What will students study and how is it assessed?**

Students study towards a full GCSE course

**WJEC Eduqas GCSE (9-1) in DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY.**

The course is broken down into two areas. The NEA (Coursework) and a written exam.

**Component 1:** Design and Technology in the 21st Century Written examination: 2 hours 50% of qualification

A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of the following topic areas:

- Design and technology and our world
- Smart materials
- Electronic systems and programmable components
- Mechanical components and devices
- Materials

**Component 2:** Design and make task Non-exam assessment: approximately 35 hours 50% of qualification

A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by the exam board, assessing candidates' ability to:

- Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities
- Design and make prototypes
- Analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology.

## **What type of career could a Design & Technology qualification lead to?**

There are many different career paths a Design and Technology student could take, here are some examples:

Architecture, Art therapy, CGI/ Animation, Costume Design, engineering/ aerospace engineering, Fashion design/ Shoe design, Fine artist, Furniture Design, Graphic design, Illustration, Interior Design, Model Making/ Special Effect industry, Textile design, Printmaking, Product Design, Prosthetics, Set and theatre design

## **What skills are required to study Design and Technology?**

The ability to meet deadlines, good practical ability, enjoy creative activities, problem solving skills, the ability to use ICT to create a portfolio, an interest in mathematics and science, ability to work alone and in groups, ability to work on topics/theme for a long term (as portfolio) both at school and at home.

The specification can be found here:

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/design-and-technology/gcse/>

# Food Preparation and Nutrition

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Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills and will ensure students develop greater understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. Students will also learn about British and international culinary traditions, food security and food safety.

At the heart of the qualification is a focus on developing practical cookery skills and a strong understanding of nutrition.

The specification will encourage students to develop a broad range of knowledge, understanding and technical skills related to food preparation and nutrition. The emphasis is upon enabling learners to make connections between theory and practice and apply understanding of food and nutrition when preparing and cooking food.

## Subject content

- Food preparation skills – these are intended to be integrated into the five sections:
  1. Food, nutrition and health
  2. Food science
  3. Food safety
  4. Food choice
  5. Food provenance

## Assessments

Examination assessment Paper 1: Food preparation and nutrition (50%)

### What's assessed

Theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition from Sections 1 to 5 above.

### How it's assessed

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks

50% of GCSE

### Questions

Multiple choice questions (20 marks)

Five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks)

### **What's assessed**

#### **Task 1:** Food investigation 15% of GCSE

Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.

#### **Task 2:** Food preparation assessment 35% of GCSE

Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.

Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

### **How it's assessed**

**Task 1:** Written report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

**Task 2:** Written portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

We will study the AQA examination board specification

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food-preparation-and-nutrition>

## **Geography IGCSE**

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### **Why should I take Geography at IGCSE?**

Geography is the study of the world around us and gives us an opportunity to learn about why we live the way we do and why the natural world looks and behaves in the way it does. It provides a link between the arts and the sciences and covers a broad base of knowledge. If you are motivated and enjoy investigating new places then you should seriously consider studying Geography at IGCSE.

### **What qualification will I get?**

We will study the Edexcel IGCSE specification (2017). Further information can be found on the Edexcel website <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-geography-2017.html>.

You will gain an IGCSE qualification in Geography at the end of the course and this will be marked 9-1 as with all UK GCSE qualifications.

## **What will I learn about?**

We teach all six topics covered by the specification.

### **Physical Geography**

1. River environments
2. Coastal environments
3. Hazardous environments

### **Human Geography**

4. Economic activity and energy
5. Ecosystems and rural environments
6. Urban environments

You will also learn about:

- Globalisation and migration
- Fragile environments
- Development and human welfare
- Investigative skills
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## **Are there any Fieldwork opportunities?**

There will be an opportunity to participate in a day trip to the coast to study beach profiles and land uses, a visit to Leicester to study urban land use and some skill development sessions. We hope to offer a residential fieldtrip during your IGCSE studies. This may be to Iceland or a UK based destination. There will also be opportunities to participate in Investigative work whilst learning different topics on the course.

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

The course will be assessed through two exams. The first will cover Physical topics and will be 1 hour 10 minutes long. The second exam will cover human topics and will be 1 hour 45 minutes long. In the exams there will be a variety of question styles including multiple-choice, short and extended answer, graphical and data as well as practical enquiry questions.

## **How will Geography help in the future?**

Geography is a widely accepted qualification for academic progression and can be studied up to degree level. It provides opportunities to develop data selection and analysis skills as well as building key skills required to be successful in further academic study.

## **German**

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This option is for those students wishing to study both French and German who should therefore choose French as their core language. Details are given in the core section.

# History

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## **Why study GCSE History?**

**Interest:** In history we meet extraordinary characters, read awe inspiring tales of wonder and heroism and are often astonished at man's ability to be cruel. What can be more interesting than knowing and understanding our own History?

**Useful Skills:** The ability to evaluate sources; present arguments clearly; construct logical arguments, and solve problems with detailed analysis.

**Critical thinking:** The world is full of people who want us to believe what they say, for example politicians, journalists and advertisers. In order to be free in the modern world we must keep exercising our minds, and testing and evaluating the pronouncements and judgements of others. History gives us this training.

**Development as an individual:** As we learn about other people we learn about ourselves. As we study History we learn about the human race, we learn what it means to be a human being, we learn what human beings are capable of. We also learn to put ourselves in perspective. We realise that there have been intelligent, honest and good people in other ages who have not shared our prejudices, our attitudes and our ideas. So History teaches us tolerance, flexibility, openness and awareness. To study History is to become a more complete human being.

## **Course outline for Edexcel GCSE History**

### **Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment**

- Medicine in Britain, c1250–present with special reference to WW1

### **Paper 2: British depth study and period study**

*For the depth study:*

The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189-1216

*For the period study:*

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

### **Paper 3: Modern Depth Study**

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

# Mandarin Chinese

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## Why learn Chinese?

For a decade or more, the Chinese economy has been growing at a high rate of around 10% per year. Nowadays, all economies are so interdependent, the growth and size of the Chinese economy will without question have a huge impact on all our lives, but particularly on the working lives of our young people. Many of the students we are teaching will make their careers by doing business with China and their ability to work in Mandarin will be critical to their success. British employers have already realised this. A recent CBI survey showed that employers who are looking to recruit employees with language skills ranked the knowledge of Chinese ahead of all other languages except French and German. Like English, Chinese is one of the key languages of the global economy.

## Chinese at Dixie

Having recognised the growing importance of Chinese early and established a school link with the Baxian Middle School in Chongqing in 1999, the Dixie Grammar School has been developing its infrastructure for the teaching of Chinese for a number of years now. In October 2014, our school was awarded 'Confucius Classroom' status, a bi-lateral network overseen here by the University of London's Institute of Education, which will enable us to improve further our resources and our students' learning experience. At Dixie, Chinese is first introduced in Year 6 and is studied by all students until the end of Year 8, at which point students choose whether to continue into Year 9. Taught by a UK resident specialist, Chinese has been fully integrated into the School's curriculum and all of its assessment and support systems.

## What is included in the course?

The Dixie Chinese course follows the AQA GCSE Chinese specification. The course aims to provide useful, balanced language skills and to encourage students to practise the language to help build confidence and develop fluency, as well as introducing Chinese custom and culture, with the option of a language study trip to China. The four main skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing are now all assessed by way of examination at the end of Year 11 and are based on the following key areas:

- **Identity and culture:** Relationship with family and friends, technology in everyday life, free-time activities, customs and festivals in Chinese speaking countries/communities
- **Local, national international and global areas of interest:** Home, town, neighbourhood and region, charity/voluntary work, healthy/unhealthy living, the environment, poverty/homelessness, travel and tourism

- **Current and future study and employment:** my studies, life at school/college, education post-16, jobs, career choices and ambitions

Further details can be found online:

AQA GCSE Chinese specification link:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/chinese-spoken-mandarin-8673>

Learning Chinese is a challenge, which requires dedication and application. The experience is both rewarding and enjoyable, however, and the benefits are certainly worthwhile.

## Music

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### ***What is GCSE Music all about?***

GCSE Music is about creating, listening to and understanding music from a wide variety of genres.

The OCR course covers performing, composing and listening in a wide variety of musical styles – classical music, world music, film music and popular music. The course is assessed in three components:

Performing	30%
Composing	30%
Listening and Appraising	40%

(Based on four Areas of Study)

### ***Will I enjoy this course?***

You should enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

- Involves performing as a soloist and as part of an ensemble
- Involves listening to a broad range of musical styles
- Involves composing or arranging music
- Offers the opportunity to extend your expertise in Music technology

### ***How does it follow on from what I have learned before?***

You will improve your skills in performing and composing different types of music. You will listen to a wide variety of music and learn more about how and why it was written and performed and how it is structured.

### ***How is the course assessed?***

Listening and appraising is assessed by an examination at the end of the course. You will listen to and answer questions on four Areas of Study.

The Composing and Performing elements are ongoing throughout the course. The final assessment involves submitting recordings of both a solo and an ensemble performance and completing two compositions under controlled conditions.

You will use a computer music-publishing programme and computer sequencing as part of the course as well as traditional notation and music theory skills.

If you are contemplating taking this course, be aware that:

- you should be able to play/sing to a high standard (approximately Grade 4) although it is not necessary to have achieved a set grade.
- GCSE Music students are expected to take an active part in school music.
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### **How will GCSE Music enhance my career opportunities?**

GCSE Music is the basis for further musical study, but it also provides a substantial range of transferable skills. In order to become accomplished musicians people have to be self-disciplined and be able to work independently, highly regarded qualities for study at degree level and in employment. Many of the skills developed in the course would be very useful in any career which involves creative thinking, communication, presentation and expressive skills.

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-music-j536-from-2016/>

# Physical Education – Cambridge IGCSE

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## Structure of the Course:

### Paper 1:

Theory: 1 hour 45 minutes, 100 marks.

The examination assesses candidates' knowledge and understanding in relation to the syllabus content. Candidates are required to demonstrate skills of description, interpretation and evaluation. The question paper has a weighting of 50% of the total marks of the qualification and uses a mix of short answer questions and structured questions. Note that candidates may only use physical activities listed in the syllabus as examples in their answers to questions.

### Component 2:

Coursework: Candidates undertake four physical activities from at least two of the seven categories listed. Internally assessed / externally moderated and worth 50% of the total marks.

## Theory content:

The syllabus content has been revised and reorganised. It has been divided into the following sections:

- Anatomy and physiology
- Health, fitness and training
- Skill acquisition and psychology
- Social, cultural and ethical influences

All the theory is related to the practical activity throughout the course

## Practical Activities

- There are seven categories of practical activity to choose from
- Each pupil will have their best four activities submitted

**Activity Areas:** Games, Gymnastic Activities, Dance, Athletic Activities, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, Swimming, Combat Activities.

## Who is this course suited to?

- Those who are keen, enthusiastic and genuinely interested in sport
- Those who participate in sport outside of school and have several strong activity areas
- Those who realise that this course has a strong theory element

<http://www.cie.org.uk/images/329721-2019-2021-syllabus.pdf>

# Religious Studies

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Religious Studies is taught in small groups to give plenty of opportunity for friendly, informal discussion but is academically rigorous and challenging.

## ***You will enjoy this course:***

- If you are interested in learning about what people believe.
- If you like exploring how people's faith affects their daily lives.
- If you are open to being challenged and to challenging different beliefs.
- If you enjoy debating contentious ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia, war and conflict, gender or racial discrimination.
- If you like contributing orally to class discussion.

## ***Why choose Religious Studies?***

- It affects every area of human life – our choices, our morals, our identity our politics.
- It involves the big questions – who am I, where does the universe come from, are science and religion opposites, does God exist?
- It develops academic skills such as analysis, evaluation, essay writing and critical thinking.
- It compliments other GCSE subjects such as History, Geography, Science, Art, English Literature.
- It increases your awareness of differences in society.
- It prepares you for a multicultural world and workplace.

## ***What exam board and specification?***

*AQA Religious Studies A specification (8062), the subject content is as follows:*

Two components/papers:

- 1 A study of the beliefs teachings and practices of TWO religions.  
(Christianity and Judaism)
- 2 FOUR religious, philosophical and ethical themes chosen from the following:
  - **Relationships and Families** – sexuality, marriage, divorce, gender roles
  - **Religion and Life** – origins of the universe and humanity, the environment, abortion, euthanasia, the afterlife.
  - **The Existence of God and revelation** – Arguments for and against God's existence, how can we 'know' God.
  - **Religion, peace and conflict** – terrorism, war, pacifism
  - **Religion Crime and Punishment** – aims of punishment, death penalty, is forgiveness possible?
  - **Religion, human rights and social justice** – prejudice, discrimination, racism, poverty.

Each component will be assessed by an examination of 1 hour 45 minutes at the end of the two-year course.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>

### ***Beyond GCSE***

This course is an excellent foundation for those wishing to study Religious Studies at 'A' Level – a subject highly regarded by top universities as it develops those skills necessary for a range of courses such as: Theology, Philosophy, Law, History, English and Politics to name but a few.

### ***Career opportunities***

Those with Religious Studies at GCSE often go into careers requiring 'people skills' and good communication, such as:

- local government
- politics, caring professions including medicine
- media and journalism
- advertising
- marketing
- publishing
- teaching and law

### ***How families can help***

- By encouraging students to read widely and drawing their attention to stories with an ethical or religious theme in the news and media in general.
- By discussing issues and encouraging students to express themselves in a thoughtful way.
- By acknowledging religious objects, buildings, people when around and about and on holiday sightseeing.

## GCSE AND A LEVEL RESULTS

GCSE RESULTS		Cumulative %			
		A*	A*-A	A*-B	A*-C
	2015	22.9	44.0	66.3	81.6
	2016	26.8	59.2	84.3	96.1
	<b>2017</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>94.7</b>
<i>Average previous 5 years</i>		25.05	53.59	78.74	92.00

A2 Level		Cumulative %					
		A*	A*-A	A*-B	A-C	A-D	A-E
	<b>2017</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>98</b>
<i>Previous 4 years average</i>		8.3	29.8	55.5	79.6	91.8	98.1