



**CRGS**  
**Year 9**  
**GCSE Options Booklet**  
**2025**

## Introduction

In September 2025 you will be embarking on your GCSE courses. It is important that you consider your GCSE choices carefully as they will undoubtedly impact on your future academic career. You should also talk to your parents/carers and teachers about the options available.

This booklet contains details of all the courses available to you. The details provided are correct at the time of printing.

Following a Curriculum Review, we have made some changes to the GCSE options for September 2024 onwards. You will be studying nine GCSEs in total. We want to ensure that you study a broad and balanced curriculum.

The reasons behind this change are:

- To improve your outcomes
- You will have more curriculum time for subjects
- You will get further time for consolidation work as well as revision at the end of the GCSE course
- You will get more flexibility in the subjects you choose.

## What are my options?

**Core Subjects** – all students study these subjects at GCSE:

English and English Literature  
Mathematics

The following non-examination courses are also followed by all students:

Personal Development and Citizenship (covering careers guidance, Religious Education, current affairs, health and drug education as well as RSE (Relationships and Sex Education))

PE (a range of activities and students also take part in a leadership programme)

All students must study **at least one** humanity subject.

Geography, History or Religious Studies

**All students must make a choice between either following Path A or Path B:**

### Path A – Science choices

Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 Separate Sciences)

### Path B – Science choices

Combined Science (Trilogy) which is worth 2 GCSEs and where you still study each of the Sciences.

Following on from your choice about Science subject, all students then must make the following choices staying along Path A or Path B:

### Path A – 2 more subject choices

All students are strongly recommended to study **at least one language**. If you do not wish to study a language you must discuss this with Ms Renold.

French, German, Spanish or Latin

### Path B – 3 more subject choices

All students are strongly recommended to study **at least one language**. If you do not wish to study a language you must discuss this with Ms Renold.

French, German, Spanish or Latin

Finally, if you choose a Language you will choose to study one further subject from the list below:

Art and Design – Fine Art  
Art and Design – Textiles Design  
Classical Civilisation  
Computer Science  
Design and Technology  
Drama  
Food Preparation and Nutrition  
French  
Geography  
German  
History  
Latin  
Music  
Physical Education  
Religious Studies  
Spanish

**Please note that you may not choose both:**

**Art (Fine Art) and Art (Textiles)**

Finally, if you choose a Language you will choose to study two further subjects from the list below:

Art and Design – Fine Art  
Art and Design – Textiles Design  
Classical Civilisation  
Computer Science  
Design and Technology  
Drama  
Food Preparation and Nutrition  
French  
Geography  
German  
History  
Latin  
Music  
Physical Education  
Religious Studies  
Spanish

**Please note that you may not choose both:**

**Art (Fine Art) and Art (Textiles)**

## Choosing subjects

When making your choices, consider the following questions:

### **Do you enjoy the subject?**

Students who enjoy their subjects tend to be the most successful. Remember that your decision should not be based on what your friends are choosing or who is currently teaching you – all that could change next year when there will be new teaching groups.

### **Are you good at the subject?**

Achieving the best possible GCSE results is an obvious aim and therefore your ability in a particular subject is an important issue to consider.

### **Do you need the subject?**

Some of you may already have definite career plans. It is therefore essential that you choose your options to suit these paths. However, many of you will not have made decisions about your final choice of career so it is important that you keep your options open.

### **Have you researched the subject content of your chosen options?**

Some subjects may be new to you and you will not therefore have any experience on which to base your choice. In these cases, it is essential that you familiarise yourself with the subject specification. Even for subjects you have already studied, the content of the GCSE course is sometimes different from topics at Key Stage 3, so you must still research carefully before making any decisions.

## **The Options Process**

### **You can obtain advice from the following staff:**

You should talk to your subject teachers and your form tutor. Miss Renold (Head of Main School), Mrs Byrom (Head of Year 9) will also be able to offer advice, as will Mr. Keulemans (Headteacher), Mr. Alcock (Assistant Headteacher, Main School) and Mr Hoyle (Senior Assistant Headteacher). Mrs Howard (Careers Advisor) will be available with advice on career paths.

### **Options Assembly**

You will have a Year 9 Options Assembly on Tuesday 4th February 2025. Form Tutors will be with their forms at this assembly. The students get a paper copy of the Options Booklet at this time.

### **Communication to your parents / carers following Options Assembly**

On the same day as the Year 9 Options Assembly, parents / carers will receive a letter about the amended process and an electronic copy of the Options Booklet.

### **Parents' Evening**

The Year 9 Parents' Evening, **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025**, is extremely important and we would advise you to attend this evening with your parents. You will then be able to discuss in detail the GCSE specifications. Miss Renold will also be available to advise.

At the Year 9 Parents' Evening, Miss Renold and Miss Ashton will be giving a talk to parents/carers and students about the changes to the Options process.

### **Interview Week**

Week commencing **February 10<sup>th</sup> 2025** you will have an options interview with either Mrs Byrom, Alcock, Miss Renold, Mr Hoyle or Mr Keulemans. This will give you the opportunity to discuss your interests and possible choices.

### **Deadline for Choices**

Please complete the **Online Form by Friday March 7th 2025**. It is important that you meet this deadline so that we can start processing all the data and working out the best match possible.

## **Your final choices will be confirmed at the end of June.**

## **FAQs**

### **Will all of my choices be approved?**

We cannot guarantee to meet all of your choices. Inevitably, due to timetabling constraints there will be a number of students who will have to study their reserve choice. Our aim is to establish the best possible fit for the whole year group. If we have to ask you to take up your reserve choice, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will discuss this with you.

### **Will I be able to change my options after I have handed in the form?**

Once we start to process all the forms it will become more difficult to change your options because the timetable will be under construction.

### **Will I be able to change subjects in Year 10?**

This will only happen in exceptional circumstances after detailed discussion with your teachers, your parents and senior members of staff. After the end of September no changes will be allowed for any reason.

### **Will I be able to drop a subject?**

We expect all students to complete all of the courses they are studying.

## **Art and Design – Fine Art**

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

This course leads to a GCSE qualification in Art and Design, (Fine Art endorsement) awarded by AQA.

### **Why study Fine Art?**

It is useful to consider that collectively, the creative industries are the UK's major export. The skills learnt through the course will obviously equip you for future creative careers such as artist, architect, product designer, graphic designer or stage set designer to name but a few, but it also provides a sound educational background for other less obvious careers where the ability to think differently and creatively gives you the edge on the competition. Self-expression is actively encouraged through the artwork, the written word and discussion. These are valuable tools for all aspects of future life. The Art Department is committed to providing a diverse, innovative course which will provide a rewarding and exciting element to your GCSE choices.

### **What will I study?**

The course provides an exciting opportunity to develop your creative abilities using a wide range of different materials and techniques. You will be learning about aesthetics, form, composition and the need to be able to solve problems creatively. The course follows the AQA Art and Design (Fine Art) option and you will have the opportunity to produce paintings, sculpture, prints, assemblage, textiles, mixed media, digital art and lens-based media such as photography and video art. You will also have the opportunity to explore the emerging field of Virtual Reality design, using newly acquired headsets. You will also engage in many other creative processes. You will have the opportunity to explore the work of established artists and designers which will help you learn from their techniques. You are encouraged to retain ownership of your ideas, express your views and ultimately develop exciting and unique artworks that have personal significance. You will also be provided with information about the wide range of creative careers that an art education can lead to.

### **What skills will I develop?**

- Creativity
- Imagination
- An enjoyment of creating artwork
- A desire to be expressive
- An openness to new ideas

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

All the work produced over the two years will be considered for your final display, but you will only present the best of your work. Coursework accounts for 60% of the overall mark, with the other 40% coming from an end of course External Assignment. Before producing the External Assignment final outcome you will develop your preparatory work during class time. The External Assignment is completed before any of your other GCSE exams begin. The coursework and External Assignment are both marked internally and then moderated by AQA.

**Please note:** The end of the course is celebrated with a combined A Level and GCSE exhibition to which you and your family will be invited.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?**

For further details please contact Mr Matthews, Head of Learning Art & Design.

## **Art and Design – Textile Design**

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

This course leads to a GCSE qualification in Art and Design, (Textiles endorsement) awarded by AQA.

### **Why study Textile Design?**

This subject provides an opportunity for students to fulfil their practical and creative potential with exciting and innovative end results through a variety of Textiles media. This prepares candidates for taking higher level courses or for entering the world of work.

### **What will I study?**

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of textile media, techniques and processes including both traditional and emerging technologies. Textile Design is a practical subject which requires the application of knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning, producing and evaluating them. The syllabus is concerned with the understanding and use of textiles as a material and the design and construction process.

### **What skills will I develop?**

This is a 2 year course that provides students with opportunities to develop a diverse portfolio of work with clear links to the four Assessment Objectives. Students are encouraged to explore a variety of construction and embellishment techniques and will often refer directly to the work of other artists, designers and makers. Students will explore a variety of different areas of textiles including fashion and costume, printed and dyed materials, constructed and manipulated fabrics, stitched and embellished textiles. Individuality is actively encouraged and a sense of ownership of work will be nurtured in students.

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

All the work produced over the two years will be considered for your final display, but you will only present the best of your work. Coursework accounts for 60% of the overall mark, with the other 40% coming from an end of course External Assignment. Before producing the External Assignment final outcome, you will develop your preparatory work during class time. The External Assignment is completed before any of your other GCSE exams begin. The coursework and External Assignment are both marked internally and then moderated by AQA.

**Please note:** The end of the course is celebrated with a combined A Level and GCSE exhibition to which you and your family will be invited.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?**

For further details please contact Mrs Smith, Teacher of Art Textiles or Mr Matthews, Head of Learning Art and Design.

## **Classical Civilisation**

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

We study the Classical Civilisation specification from OCR.

### **Why study Classical Civilisation?**

Classical Civilisation is the study of aspects of the civilisations of Greece and Rome. The civilisations of Greece and Rome are at the very root of our own culture and their influence can still be seen far and wide, especially in the fields of art and architecture, literature, drama and politics. If your studies in Latin so far have led you to become interested in the ancient world, you may well choose to study Classical Civilisation at GCSE.

### **What will I study?**

For one paper we will study myths regarding the role of the gods and heroes in the founding of Athens and Rome and the importance of Heracles/Hercules to both the Greek and Roman world. Myth as a symbol of power will also be explored, as will ever-popular myths about the underworld. We will also look at the role of religion in the everyday lives of ancient Greeks and Romans. The study of temples, sacrifice, festivals, death and beliefs in the afterlife will give a broad overview of religion in the ancient world. There are various original sources to study – works of art, examples of Greek and Roman architecture, and literary works (all in English translation).

For the second paper we will study Roman city life: houses, food, gladiators, chariot racing, the baths, slavery, Roman political life and Roman education. There are various prescribed buildings and literary sources (all in English translation) to study.

### **What skills will I develop?**

As well as essay writing and research skills, students are taught to evaluate critically sources for the study of the classical world. These include literary and archaeological sources. Students will also develop awareness of the continuing influence of the classical world on later times and of the similarities and differences between the classical world and later times.

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

There are two papers, each lasting 90 minutes, containing a mixture of short answers and longer essays.

**Please note:** No previous knowledge of Latin or Classics is required to take this course and no Latin language work is involved.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?**

For further details please contact Mr. Westworth, Head of Learning Classics and Latin.

## **Computer Science**

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

This course leads to a GCSE in Computer Science. Computer Science is the study of the principles of computation and computational thinking and their application in the design and development of computer systems. It aims to encourage students to develop computational thinking – considering what can be computed and how, and what cannot. Learning computational thinking involves writing algorithms, learning to program (write computer code or software) and testing that programs work correctly.

### **Why study Computer Science?**

Learn to code! You will quickly learn to write robust software in C# using Microsoft Visual Studio. GCSE Computer Science also aims to develop students' ability to: understand current and emerging technologies; understand how they work and apply this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts; acquire and apply knowledge, technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming; acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of ICT in a range of contexts; create computer programs to solve problems; develop the skills to work collaboratively; evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/algorithms and the impact of and issues related to the use of computer technology in society.

### **What will I study?**

Students will build upon the programming experiences they have had in KS3 lessons at CRGS. They will cover standard programming constructs such as assignment, selection, iteration, arrays, procedures and functions, together with studying commonly-used algorithms such as the 'bubble sort' and 'binary search'. Extension tasks might include covering more advanced programming techniques such as recursion and abstract data structures such as queues, stacks and linked lists. You will also be given the opportunity to develop forms-based applications that run on Windows. The course will also cover computer hardware and networks – identifying the component parts of a computer system and how they inter-relate (processor, memory, buses, input/output devices, hubs, switches, etc.)

### **What skills will I develop?**

Students who enjoy problem-solving and practical work writing software will enjoy Computer Science. The problem-solving skills acquired will be readily transferable across many other subjects and will also help students to become independent thinkers and learners. Future progression in this subject might lead to an A Level in Computer Science in CRGS's Sixth Form, followed by a choice of university degrees in Computer Science and related fields. There is always a shortage of highly-skilled computer scientists, not least in the teaching profession at present!

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

You will be assessed in programming and theory by two written examination papers.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?**

For further details please contact Mr Latty, Head of Learning Computer Science.



## **Design and Technology**

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

This course leads to a GCSE qualification in Design and Technology awarded by AQA.

### **Why GCSE Design and Technology?**

The ability to think creatively and to problem solve is an asset in many walks of life. This course will equip you to develop practical solutions to design problems using a range of techniques and processes. You will gain a firm grounding in design principles which could potentially lead you towards further design-based education and ultimately a career in one of the numerous design fields. Careers include product design, architecture, graphic design and advertising design.

### **What does the course involve?**

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. You will have the opportunity to work creatively when designing, making and applying technical and practical expertise. You will be able to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. You will also have the opportunity to study in a wide range of materials including polymers, timbers, electronics, textiles, metals, paper and boards. You will study specialist technical principles in paper and boards in greater depth.

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

Assessment is through NEA: non-examination assessment (50%) and a written examination (50%). The examination will focus on core technical principles, specialist technical skills and designing and making processes. The non-examination assessment consists of a substantial design and making task which includes identifying and investigating design possibilities, producing a design brief and specification, generating design ideas, developing design ideas, realising design ideas and analysing and evaluating. Work will be presented in the form of a prototype and a portfolio of evidence.

NEA work is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

### **What skills do I need?**

- Creativity
- Imagination
- An enjoyment of designing and making
- A desire to solve problems practically
- An openness to new ideas
- An interest in graphical communication, or engineering or product design

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?**

For further details please contact Mrs Starkie, Head of Learning Design and Technology.

## **Drama**

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

This course follows the AQA syllabus for Drama which is a challenging academic, as well as highly practical, subject leading to GCSE Drama (Grades 9-1).

### **Why study Drama?**

Are you interested in the theatre and in exploring how plays are written, produced and acted? Would you like to learn how to act and perform for an audience? Do you enjoy performing scripts, creating your own scripts and working as part of a team? Would you like to develop more self-confidence and the ability to express your ideas in public? Have you got lots of creative ideas about how you would like to see something be brought to life on stage? If so, these are all excellent reasons for studying Drama at GCSE.

### **What will I study?**

There are three sections to the course:

Component 1 is a written exam which is worth 40% of the total marks. For this you must answer a question on a scripted play we have studied and a question reviewing a live play production we have seen. There is also a multiple choice section testing your Theatre knowledge.

Component 2 is the first of two practical options based on a performance and analysis of a piece of Devised Theatre you have created. This work is marked by the teacher and moderated by the exam board, AQA. This is worth 40% of the GCSE.

Component 3 is based on you performing 2 extracts from a scripted play and is marked by an examiner. This is worth 20% of the GCSE.

### **What skills will I develop?**

You will develop skills in vocal and physical acting, stage-craft; interpersonal and communication skills; teamwork; problem solving and written communication.

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

Assessment is through a written exam which is externally set and marked, worth 40% of the total marks and also through the practical options: 3 performances and a written analysis which are internally assessed and externally examined and are worth 60% of the total marks.

### **Is there anything else I should know about?**

This course is challenging and academically rigorous; students will learn to write fluent, articulate responses to a range of Classical texts, modern cutting-edge Drama and also in response to their own acting. Excellent attendance is crucial as you will often be working in a group and your attendance can impact on others.

This course is highly enjoyable and students gain a real sense of achievement through their performances. They will also have the opportunity to visit the Theatre regularly, work with Sixth Form students and also with professional Actors and Directors. Students will benefit from a brand new Drama studio space to create their performance work in.

Drama is not just about learning to act; it also enables students to improve self-confidence, poise, public speaking skills, teamwork and refines students' abilities to negotiate and empathise with others, as well as giving students a lifelong appreciation of the Theatre.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like further information?**

For further details please contact Mrs Richardson, Head of Learning Drama.

## **English Language and English Literature**

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

At GCSE Level, all students will take both English Language and English Literature examinations. English Language and English Literature are two separate qualifications and require Year 11 students to sit two examinations for English Language and two for English Literature. We will sit the AQA board examinations, as we feel that these provide the best challenge and stimulation for our students.

### **English Language**

The first examination is called "Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing". The second is "Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives". Both last for 1 hour 45 minutes and account for 50% of the final mark each.

There will also be a non-examination, formal, filmed assessment of Spoken Language which is marked by the class teacher and is a separate endorsement on the GCSE certificate.

### **English Literature**

The first examination paper is called "Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel". It is 1 hour 45 minutes long and is worth 40% of the final GCSE. For this we will be studying "Macbeth" and "The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" by Robert Louis Stevenson.

The second examination paper is entitled "Modern Texts and Poetry". There are three questions: the first on "An Inspector Calls", a play by J B Priestley; the second uses the AQA poetry Anthology and the third will be on unseen poetry. It is 2 hours 15 minutes long and is worth 60% of the final mark.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like further information?**

If you want to know more about GCSE English Language and English Literature – please speak to your year 9 English teacher or Mrs Gardiner, Head of Learning English.

## **Food Preparation and Nutrition**

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

This course leads to a GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition. This qualification is linear and means that students will sit their exams and submit their non-examination assessment at the end of the course.

### **Why study Food Preparation and Nutrition?**

This is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

### **What will I study?**

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics: Food, Nutrition and Health; Food Science; Food Safety; Food Choice; Food Provenance.

The range of food and ingredients studied should reflect the recommended guidelines for a healthy diet based on the main food commodity groups focused around The Eat Well Guide.

Students will gain knowledge of macro and micronutrients; how to carry out nutritional analysis; understand how technological developments can lead to better health. They will learn why food is cooked and how heat is transferred to food; the functional and chemical properties of food; food safety and how to prevent food spoilage and food contamination. They will learn the factors affecting food choice and understand the environmental impact and sustainability of food.

### **What skill will I develop?**

Twelve skills groups have been integrated throughout the specification to show how the content can be taught through practical activities. These include general practical skills; knife skills; preparing fruit and vegetables, use of the cooker; use of equipment; cooking methods; preparing, combining and shaping; sauce making; tenderising and marinating; raising agents; dough; setting mixtures.

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

**Exam Assessment (50% GCSE)** A written paper of 1 hour 45 minutes which will assess all five core topics. This will comprise multiple choice questions (20 marks) and five detailed questions, each with a number of sub-questions (80 marks)

#### **Non exam assessment (50% GCSE)**

**Task 1** A food investigation which tests students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Students will prepare an electronic written report of 1500-2000 words.

**Task 2** A food preparation assessment whereby students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved. Students will prepare an electronic portfolio which includes photographic evidence.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?**

For further details please contact Mrs L Jones or Miss Taylor, Teachers of Food Preparation and Nutrition.

## **Geography**

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

AQA Geography GCSE Specification 8035.

### **Why study Geography?**

Geography will help students form a clear view of the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Geography looks at what is happening to people and our planet and how we interact with our environment. It allows students to fully appreciate and learn from the world around them.

### **What will I study?**

The course covers a wide range of exciting topics in human, physical and environmental Geography and applies these ideas to examples across the globe.

- The challenge of natural hazards
- Geographical applications
- The living world
- Issue evaluation
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- Fieldwork and geographical skills
- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

These topics consider many of the issues that are the focus of national and global attention today and are therefore in the news on a regular basis. If you want to know more about them and understand their consequences, then you will enjoy your time studying Geography.

### **What skills will I develop?**

Geography is an interesting and relevant subject to study, and is well regarded in higher education and industry. Geography offers the opportunity to develop:

Technical skills including using ICT and Geographical information systems Communication and interpersonal skills through debate and discussion Literacy and numeracy	Problem-solving skills Entrepreneurial skills and awareness of career possibilities using Geography Independent Learning
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### **How will I be assessed?**

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment                      1 hour 30 minutes                      35% of GCSE

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment                      1 hour 30 minutes                      35% of GCSE

Paper 3: Geographical applications                      1 hour 15 minutes                      30% of GCSE

Issue evaluation, Fieldwork, Geographical skills. Pre-release resources made available 12 weeks before the date of the exam.

### **Further information**

Geography fieldwork is a rewarding and welcome break from the classroom. Students will undertake two geographical enquiries and each must include the use of primary data, collected as part of a fieldwork exercise. You will spend at least one day out of school collecting data that will be used to prepare your fieldwork, about which you will answer questions in the exam. Usually, GCSE students visit urban regeneration and coastal defence sites in Blackpool. We have also run field trips to Iceland and China studying natural hazards, population change and economic development.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions?**

To find out more about the GCSE course – speak to your Year 9 Geography teacher or Mr Powell, Head of Learning for Geography. Alternatively visit the AQA Geography 8035 website.

## **History**

### **What qualifications does this course lead to?**

The course leads to a GCSE qualification in History. There are no tiered examination papers in History at GCSE Level.

### **Why study History?**

The study of History is about much more than Kings and Queens and remembering the dates of battles and famous events. GCSE History covers interesting and significant points in history that have shaped our society today. You might be thinking that History is irrelevant to your career because you do not want to be a museum attendant or a History teacher. In fact studying GCSE History is really useful because it gives you an understanding of the world around you, people and their motives and helps you to analyse different sources of information.

### **What will I study?**

One of the real advantages of studying Edexcel GCSE History is that there are a number of topics which are really different from each other. There is no time to be bored because there is so much variety in the course! The course provides the opportunity to study the history of Britain, Europe and the World in both breadth and depth. These are the topics you would study at GCSE level:

- Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000-present - including a study of Jack the Ripper and Whitechapel from 1870-1900
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39
- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

### **What skills will I develop?**

GCSE History develops a number of important skills. The course aims to ensure that you become an effective independent learner and a critical reflective thinker. Besides improving your knowledge and understanding of the past, GCSE History also develops your ability to ask relevant questions about the subject material and to investigate topics critically using a range of sources. By exploring a variety of historical evidence you will improve your analytical and evaluative skills. You will also learn to organise and communicate your historical knowledge and understanding in creative and different ways and reach substantial judgements. You will be encouraged to use ICT in History whenever it is appropriate.

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

The GCSE assessment will consist of three written examinations. Two examinations are 1 hour and 15 minutes long, and the other is 1 hour and 45 minutes. All examinations will be undertaken at the end of Year 11.

### **Is there anything else I should know about History?**

GCSE History builds on Key Stage 3 studies and prepares students for the study of A Level History. Please note that our departmental policy is that you must have studied GCSE History and attained a good grade if you wish to study A Level History at the school's Sixth Form.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?**

If you have any questions about History at GCSE Level, you should ask your current History teacher or see Mrs Quraishi, Head of Learning History.

## **Languages**

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

You have the opportunity to study at least one Modern Language: either French and/or German and/or Spanish.

All Modern Language courses follow the new AQA syllabus and you will achieve a GCSE grade at the end of a two-year course.

### **Why study Modern Languages?**

Learning modern languages will open up a wealth of opportunities both at home and abroad. It will broaden your horizons and help you become an excellent communicator, a skill which is vital when applying for a job. It will increase your options, enable you to explore a greater variety of career paths and give you a potential advantage in the workplace. Most university courses now have links with French, German and Spanish speaking countries and give the opportunity for a study year or work experience abroad as part of the course, whatever the main subject.

### **What will I study?**

The 3 themes to be covered are: People and Lifestyle, Popular Culture and Communication and the World around us. There is a broad range of topic areas within these themes, some of which you have looked at before.

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

Students are assessed in the four language skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students will be entered at either higher or foundation level. The four skills are tested by examination at the end of the course and each skill is worth 25% of the overall awarded grade.

**Reading and Listening:** Questions are in both English and the target language. The reading paper contains a short translation into English and the listening paper contains a short dictation.

**The Speaking Exam:** The exam will be conducted in the April or May of the final year and the students will be examined by their class teacher. During the exam, students will complete a role play, a short reading aloud task, followed by a photocard. Students will then also answer questions from topic areas studied in the general conversation section. This exam is marked externally.

### **The Writing Exam:**

- Translation from English into the target language
- For Foundation, students will complete two writing tasks of approximately 50 and 90 words. For Higher, two writing tasks of approximately 90 and 150 words are to be completed.
- In the writing tasks, students respond to bullet points given for the task on topic areas studied during the course). There is a choice from two questions per written task.
- On the Foundation tier there is also a short grammar task to complete. (5 marks)

### **Other Information**

Students will have the opportunity to take part in our successful school exchanges with our link schools in France, Germany and Spain. This unique experience will enable students not only to practise their chosen language(s) but also to immerse themselves in the way of life and culture whilst staying in a welcoming family environment. Students who take part on this exchange always feel they have really benefitted from the opportunity to use their foreign language in an authentic environment and often maintain their link with their partners for many years.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?**

Mrs Pratt (Head of Learning for MFL), Mrs Banks (Second in Department), Mrs Buckley, Miss Cancelliere, Miss Gasser, Mrs Humphreys, Mrs Olek and Mrs Pinedo-Garcia.

## **Latin**

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

This course leads to a GCSE qualification from the Eduqas WJEC examination board.

### **Why study Latin?**

Latin is the language of the ancient Romans. Since Britain was part of the Roman Empire for almost 400 years, Latin has had an enormous influence on the English Language and more than 50% of common English words are derived from Latin. The study of GCSE Latin will not only enable students to read this fascinating language but will also help them to understand more about the origins of our own language. Recent studies in both Britain and America have shown that a knowledge of Latin dramatically improves students' range of vocabulary, accuracy of spelling and clarity of expression – in other words, their ability to communicate in their own language. It is well known that Latin expressions are still used in Medicine and Law and other academic fields and learning Latin helps us to make sense of this terminology.

### **What will I study?**

Students will continue to build on the basic knowledge of Latin gained in Year 9. The Cambridge Latin Course is followed and students will be brought to the stage where they are able to read the work of Roman authors in the original language. Students will also study various aspects of Roman life and culture, as well as reading extracts from some of the greatest literature ever written.

### **What skills will I develop?**

During the course, students will develop a level of competence in the Latin language and will develop an awareness of the continuing influence of Latin on the English language. They will also learn to develop a sensitive and analytical approach to language generally and to apply analytical and evaluative skills at an appropriate level.

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

#### **Component 1: Latin Language**

This paper comprises a written examination which lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes. This paper makes up 50% of the qualification and is marked out of 100. Candidates will be presented with a passage of Latin which they have not seen before and tested on its meaning by means of comprehension questions and translation. There is a Defined Vocabulary List of 440 words; all other vocabulary used on the paper will be given.

#### **Component 2: Latin Literature and Sources: A Day at the Races**

This paper comprises a written examination which lasts for 1 hour 15 minutes and makes up 30% of the qualification; it is marked out of 60. Candidates will be required to study selections of both prose and verse literature on the theme of Roman chariot racing and the Circus accompanied by a selection of prescribed ancient source materials (e.g. paintings, mosaics, sculptures, buildings, graffiti translated into English) on which one or more questions will be asked. All material for this paper will be studied in detail by candidates and prepared carefully before the examination.

#### **Component 3: Latin Literature: Germanicus and Piso**

This paper comprises a written examination which lasts for 1 hour and makes up 20% of the qualification; it is marked out of 40. Candidates are assessed on their ability to understand, analyse and evaluate a passage or passages of Latin literature which form a narrative, together with a passage or passages of narrative in English which extend the storyline. The text concerns the poisoning of Germanicus by his enemy, Piso, following orders given by the Roman Emperor Tiberius.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like further information?**

If you have any questions about GCSE Latin please see Mr. Westworth, Head of Learning Classics and Latin.



## **Mathematics**

### **What qualifications does this course lead to?**

All students follow the AQA syllabus. All candidates will sit the higher tier.

### **Why study Mathematics?**

Students will need mathematics in order to study many other subjects and it makes those subjects easier to understand. Employers rate data-handling ability as one of their top requirements in new recruits: the ability to obtain information from graphs and charts, to manipulate percentages and fractions and to make sensible predictions from data.

### **What will I study?**

The AQA syllabus follows the National Curriculum areas of Number and algebra, Shape, space and measures and Handling data, which build on the work covered in Year 9. Additionally, there are several new topics, such as vectors, that students will not have studied before. Where relevant, students will use ICT packages to investigate new ideas, illustrate solutions and present results.

### **What skills will I develop?**

Mathematics provides opportunities to promote

- thinking skills, through developing students' problem-solving skills and deductive reasoning
- financial capability, through applying mathematics to problems set in financial contexts
- enterprise and entrepreneurial skills, through developing students' abilities to apply mathematics in science and technology, in economics and in risk assessment
- work-related learning, through developing students' abilities to use and apply mathematics in workplace situations and in solving real-life problems

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

The AQA Mathematics GCSE is examined at the end of Year 11 via three papers, two calculator and one non calculator.

### **Is there anything else I should know about?**

Students must have their own scientific calculator and an opportunity will be available, at the beginning of Year 10, to purchase a suitable model through school.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?**

For further information please contact Mrs Mann, Head of Learning Mathematics.

## **Music**

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

Edexcel GCSE Music (1MU0 - 2016 Specification)

### **Why Study Music?**

If you love music then you should be studying it! The music GCSE is a broad and challenging course that welcomes, values and encourages all forms of musicianship. Whether you are a budding performer, song writer or composer - or perhaps more interested in music theory and history - you will find something in the course that interests you. Musicians develop a unique set of skills that all employers value – leadership, creativity and perseverance (to name just a few). Musicianship is valued around the world as a sign of intellect and studying music gives students a unique insight into art and culture.

### **What will I study & how will I be assessed?**

**Performance (30%)** - For this unit we will develop your performance skills (either as an instrumentalist or vocalist) to produce two recordings in the spring term of Year 11. One recording will be a solo piece (with accompaniment, if applicable) and the other will be an ensemble piece. We will regularly review your progress throughout the course against the marking criteria and you can re-record your pieces if necessary. You do not need to perform in front of an examiner for GCSE music.

**Composition (30%)** - Two compositions are submitted by the end of Year 11. We will guide you through the requirements of this component and develop your composition skills throughout the course. A range of styles and techniques will be explored and you will make use of music technology to produce musical scores and recordings of your work.

**Written Exam (40%)** - Unlike many subjects, the final exam for Music is only 40% of your grade. This means that by the time you sit the exam you will have already completed the majority of the course. The final exam assesses three key strands: music theory, listening skills and knowledge of set musical works. The eight-set works include modern works such as 'Defying Gravity' from the musical Wicked, the theme music from Star Wars and 'Killer Queen' by Queen as well as key historical works by composers like Bach, Beethoven, and Purcell. We will listen to each set work, analyse the score and the recording and study the context of the piece's composition.

### **Is there anything else I need to know about?**

GCSE Music is suitable for you whatever type of music you play. You do not need to have passed any graded music exams to take music, but you must be able to play an instrument **or** sing confidently.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?**

For further information please contact Mr Wheeler, Head of Learning Music.

## **Physical Education**

### **What qualifications does this course lead to?**

A GCSE in Physical Education; all students will be entered into the Full Course Award. This course can prepare learners for the further study of PE or sports science courses as well as other related subject areas such as psychology, sociology and biology.

### **What will I study?**

GCSE PE lessons are very different to Core PE lessons, as the vast majority of the learning takes place in a classroom to enable students to:

- understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport
- understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being
- understand key socio-cultural influences which can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport.

A broad range of theory content, from anatomy and physiology and sports psychology to contemporary and social issues are studied. GCSE PE further develops students' understanding of human anatomy, the body systems, training principles and methods as well social and psychological issues that affect healthy lifestyles.

Some GCSE PE lessons are practical, so learners will become increasingly physically competent through being actively engaged in a range of physical activities and will become increasingly effective in their performance in different types of physical activity.

### **What skills will I develop?**

Students will develop their ability to engage independently and successfully in different types of physical activity and to develop and maintain their involvement in physical activity as part of a healthy, active lifestyle. Students will have the opportunity to help officiate at lead sports activities at school and in the local community.

Learners will also develop the transferable skills that are in demand by further education, Higher Education and employers, by becoming increasingly confident, independent, critical thinkers and effective decision makers who can operate effectively as individuals or as part of a team – all skills that will enable them to stand out and effectively promote themselves as they progress through life.

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

- Unit 1: This unit is assessed through 2 externally set **written examinations**: 2 x 1 hour papers. It will comprise 60% of the total mark.
- Unit 2: **Practical Performance** and **Analysis of Performance**. This is assessed under controlled conditions over the course and externally moderated at the end. Students are assessed practically in 3 activities which is worth 30%: 1 team activity, 1 individual activity and 1 other from either category. Students may have the chance to be assessed in activities they perform at a high standard outside of school. To view the list of activities that students can be assessed in visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-physical-education>, follow the 'GCSE Activity List for Physical Education' link and scroll to the heading 'List of activities applying to qualifications awarded from 2022 for full GCSE or 2021 for short course GCSE'. The Analysis of Performance, worth the remaining 10%, is a written piece of work over 14 hours focussing on a chosen sport.

Students **must be competing** in their Practical Performance activities both in and out of school where possible. They are assessed in a competitive environment, so must be committed to competing and attending lunch time practices over two years.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like further information?**

Miss Sutcliffe (Head of Learning Physical Education) or Mr Cole (Second in Department).

## **Religious Studies**

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

This course leads to an RS GCSE qualification awarded by AQA.

### **Why study Religious Studies?**

If you are interested in the big questions in life and have an open and enquiring mind then this is the course for you. It requires you to look at things differently and think for yourself. Examples of this include:

- Does God exist?
- If God is all loving why does God allow innocent people to suffer?
- Can you call a practice a religion if they don't believe in a God? (Buddhism)
- What is happiness and can it be found in religion?
- Is it ever right to go to war?
- Is it wrong to end a pregnancy prematurely?
- Is it realistic to expect marriage to last for life?
- Are religion and science really in opposition?

In essence the GCSE course encourages students to reflect upon ultimate questions about the meaning and purpose of life and to develop their own reasoned responses to these questions.

### **What will I study?**

Students will study a GCSE course which comprises of two key elements:

- (i) Beliefs, Teachings and Practices of two religions: Buddhism and Christianity
- (ii) Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies.

The course will involve a study of four themes. These are likely to be:

- (1) Relationships and Families
- (2) Religion and Life
- (3) Religion, Peace and Conflict
- (4) Religion, Human Rights and Justice

### **What skills will I develop?**

This course will develop your knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings and sources of wisdom and the ability to explain how these beliefs influence individuals, communities and societies. It will also encourage you to develop the ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced arguments. Clear thinking and the ability to argue your case in a coherent fashion are very valuable skills that you will learn. You will also be encouraged to reflect and develop your own values, beliefs and attitudes in light of what you have learnt.

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

RS is assessed by two written examinations each lasting one hour and 45 minutes at the end of Year 11.

### **Is there anything else that I need to know about?**

Many of the topics studied dominate the media and are of major contemporary relevance. Consequently this course will encourage you to keep abreast of current affairs and will make use of recent case studies from newspapers and documentaries in lessons.

We do invite guest speakers into lessons and you will be given an opportunity to participate in a day visit outside school. There is also the possibility of a residential visit.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like further information?**

For further information please contact Mrs Hartley, Head of Learning Religious Studies.

## **Science**

### **What are my options?**

**Either:**

**Path A - Triple Science (Separate Sciences):** This will mean that you will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as three separate GCSEs.

**Or**

**Path B - Double Science (Trilogy Science):** You will study a reduced science curriculum compared to Triple Science, however you will still have Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons with specialist teachers. This qualification is weighted as 2 GCSEs and will be taught in the same time as two GCSEs.

### **What should you consider when deciding upon Triple Science or Double Science?**

If you have a strong interest in science and are considering a career in a science-related field, then GCSE Triple Science may be the better choice. However, if you are interested in science but also have other academic interests or career aspirations, then GCSE Double Science may be a more suitable option.

Triple Science forms the best preparation for A Level study and you'll also know how well you did in each science subject.

Opting for Double Science will not preclude you from studying any A Level science at CRGS Sixth Form, you'll just be at a slight disadvantage compared to Triple Science students (who will have covered more content and experienced more practical work). There are already students who join our Sixth Form with Double Science and study science A Levels, however they are a small minority.

### **What qualification does this course lead to?**

Triple Science will result in three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (all graded individually). Double Science will result in two GCSEs in Science (grades can be for example 7,7 or 9,8 etc.). You should see this as an average of three science subjects that you study.

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

There is no coursework in either GCSE Science qualification. This means that all the assessment takes place in external exams at the end of Year 11. It is expected that all students will undertake key practical work and understanding of this is tested in the final exams.

The exams in Triple Science are 1 hour 45 minutes long, while they are 1 hour 15 minutes for Double Science. All students take two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics GCSE papers in Year 11.

### **What will I study?**

Students will follow the AQA specifications; full details available via the AQA website ([www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)). Note: if you pick Double Science you will study the AQA Trilogy Science Specification (designed to be taught by three teachers who are Biology, Chemistry and Physics specialists).

### **What skills will I develop?**

A range of numeracy skills involved in the process of scientific study. Manipulative skills, as well as handling a wide range of apparatus and measuring devices. Processing data and appreciating the role of Science in the wider world (How Science Works). The aim is to help produce learners who have skills to make informed judgements on all aspects of Science.

### **Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?**

Your current Science teachers or any member of the Science Department or also Dr Ellis (Head of Learning for Science).