# Eden Girls' School, Slough

# Curriculum Advice & Guidance Booklet

Eden Girls

# Foreword

Why are GCSE exams important? What's the point of completing them?

Well, one reason is that, for the first time in over 10 years of education, you will sit exams that mean something for you. When you entered primary school, you did not sit exams to get in. When you came to Eden Girls' School, Slough you did not need exams to be allowed to study here.

However, the exams that you sit over the next few years do matter – for you. They will decide whether you get to go to study the A Level or Vocational course that you want and, ultimately, whether you enjoy the career of your choice.

So, these GCSE and Vocational courses and exams are crucial. Not just to determine what you do next, but to decide what you will be doing in another 10 years' time. Doors of opportunity will open or they will close.

It is also important to remember that these are new, tougher GCSEs – with a new grading system from 9-1. There will be more content to learn, harder exams to complete, no coursework to help and more marks needed to pass.

So that you do well in these new courses, your teachers will work very hard over the next few years to deliver the learning, stimulate your interest in the subjects and give you feedback on your progress. And, your parents will free you up from the chores at home, encourage and praise you when you do well and pray for your success.

However, there are two things that your parents and your teachers cannot do for you. They cannot work hard in lessons for you and they cannot sit the exams for you. Over the next two and a half years, we want you to take personal responsibility for your studies and for your grades, work hard in each and every lesson and put the time in to do homework and revise at home.

To achieve great things, we must be prepared to give up things. We may need to give up social networking for a while, stop going out so frequently and watch a little less T.V. However, a little bit of sacrifice and time now will mean a lot of happiness at the end of the next two and a half years.

Some courses described in this booklet are ones which you will have chosen to study. Others will be subjects that we have told you are compulsory. Regardless of the GCSE, BTEC or A Level courses you study over the next few years, a lot of hard work and enthusiasm is needed to succeed.

# Contents

Over the next three years, there will be a number of courses and subjects that you will complete.

This guidance provides details of each of the courses that you could take. In particular, it gives information on:

- What you will learn on each subject.
- Why the subject is important for everyday life.
- How you will be assessed in the subject.
- What you will need to do to succeed in the subject.
- What you can study after completing a GCSE in the subject.
- What career options there are from this subject.

Each student will complete some of the following subjects during Key Stage 4 (years 9-11):

| Subject | Level | Start | Finish | Core or Part of Other Options? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Art & Design | GCSE | Y9 | Y11 | Part of Other Options |
| Digital Information Technology | BTEC | Y9 | Y11 | Part of Other Options |
| Citizenship | GCSE | Y9 | Y11 | Part of Other Options |
| Computer Science | GCSE | Y9 | Y11 | Part of Other Options |
| English Language | GCSE | Y9 | Y11 | Core |
| English Literature | GCSE | Y9 | Y11 | Core |
| French | GCSE | Y9 | Y11 | Core |
| Food Preparation & Nutrition | GCSE | Y9 | Y11 | Part of Other Options |
| Geography | GCSE | Y9 | Y11 | Part of Other Options |
| History | GCSE | Y9 | Y11 | Part of Other Options |
| Mathematics | GCSE | Y9 | Y11 | Core |
| Physical Education | GCSE | Y9 | Y11 | Part of Other Options |
| Religious Studies | GCSE | Y9 | Y10 | Core |
| Combined Science | GCSE | Y9 | Y11 | Core |
| Single Sciences: Biology, Chemistry & Physics | GCSE | Y9 | Y11 | Core (Set 1 only) |

During your time at Eden Girls' School, Slough, there will be choices that you will make with advice from teachers.

**GCSE History or GCSE Geography?**

At the end of Year 8 you choose to study either GCSE History or GCSE Geography at Key Stage 4.

**GCSE Combined Science or GCSE Single Sciences**

Depending on your exam results at the end of Year 8, you will be studying either GCSE Combined Science (worth two GCSEs) Award GCSE in Science or three separate Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and
Physics.

**GCSE Art & Design, GCSE Food Nutrition & Preparation, GCSE P.E. GCSE Citizenship**

Each student will complete a GCSE course in Art & Design, Food Nutrition & Preparation, Physical Education, Citizenship, Computer Science or a Certificate in Digital Applications. You will choose one of these subjects to study at Key Stage 4.

Whilst most students will complete at least 9 GCSEs, some students will complete fewer in order to maximise their chances of achieving 9-5 with English and Maths.

**English Baccalaureate**

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is an award for any student who achieves the following:

1. Grade 9-5 in GCSE English Language or English Literature
2. Grades 9-5 in GCSE Mathematics
3. Grades 9-5 in GCSE Science (if studying single sciences, get 9-5 in two of the Sciences)
4. Grades 9-5 in French or another Modern Foreign Language
5. Grades 9-5 in GCSE History or Geography

In order to achieve the EBacc, you will need to do well in each of these subjects.

The English Baccalaureate is important because it is recognised by Government and employers as a sign that the student has completed a broad range of subjects successfully.

# New GCSEs and the new Grading System

New GCSE courses have been introduced by the Government. These GCSEs are assessed using a new 9-1 grading system.

These new 9-1 grades compare with the 'old' A*-G in the following way:

| New GCSE Grading | | Old GCSE Grading |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | Grade 9 is a high A*. | |
| 8 | Grade 8 is low A* or high A. | A* |
| 7 | Grade 7 is a low or mid A. | A |
| 6 | Grade 6 is a high B. | B |
| 5 | Grade 5 is a low B or high C. This is the minimum grade for a 'good pass'. Grade 4 is a low or mid C. | C |
| 4 | | D |
| 3 | Grade 3 is a D or high E. | E |
| 2 | Grade 2 is a low E or high F. | F, G |
| 1 | Grade 1 is a low F or G. | |

To achieve a 'good pass' in each GCSE, a student will need to achieve at least a Grade '5'.

To study 'A' Levels, a student will need to achieve at least a Grade '6' in each subject. In some subjects, a Grade '7' will be needed.

# Core Curriculum GCSE Subjects

## English Language

AQA

### What will I learn on this course?

The aim of the course is to increase your understanding of what you read and, also, to develop your ability to communicate clearly when writing and speaking. During the GCSE course, you will study a variety of British fiction ranging from the classics to more modern texts developing your analytical skills. You will also explore a variety of non-fiction texts helping you to gain versatility in your own writing.

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

Everything you do in life requires the ability to communicate. An awareness of language is, therefore, one of life's essentials. Every career requires the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. The skills in English are transferable to all aspects of life, both personal and professional. Reading literary texts helps to sharpen your response and develop an awareness of the world and people around you.

### How will I be assessed?

Grading will be on a nine point scale (9-1), with 9 being the highest available. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'strong pass'. You will be assessed through two exams:

- The first exam will assess your reading skills in a fictional text. In this exam, your narrative or descriptive writing skills will also be tested.
- The second exam will test your reading skills in non-fiction texts and, in the writing section, you will argue for a viewpoint.
- An individual presentation to assess your spoken language. This will be recorded separately on your GCSE English Language certificate.

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE English Language, you will need to:

- Have outstanding attendance and punctuality to lessons.
- Read from a wide range of high-quality, challenging fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries in your own time.
- Take ownership of your learning and take heed of feedback from your teacher following each assessment.
- Develop ambitious vocabulary.

### What can I do after a GCSE in this course?

Achieving a good standard at GCSE is essential for any course you choose. Employers and further and higher education institutions value good grades in English Language as it demonstrates your ability to communicate effectively. GCSE English Language will allow you to study English Language and English Literature at A Level which is an increasingly popular choice.

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

An English degree is highly regarded by employers. The flexibility of skills English offers results in a range of career options, opening doors in publishing and advertising. Education and legal fields are also popular.

# English Literature

## AQA

### What will I learn on this course?

This course aims to encourage an understanding and appreciation of a wide range of literature. There is a blend of modern and pre-twentieth century prose, poetry and drama. This will give you a chance to respond to literary texts in depth. Studying English Literature teaches you how to analyse complex information and sophisticated ideas and theories. That ability to read, reflect and critique is essential in many kinds of work as is the ability to construct and articulate an argument.

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

The ability to read and respond to a range of literature will enhance an appreciation of other perspectives. Literature is enlightening and can open your mind to new experiences and ways of looking at things – even in your daily life. English Literature teaches you a great deal about life, history, society and ourselves. It will inspire a love of reading, fire your creativity and help you to be more articulate.

### How will I be assessed?

Grading will be on a nine point scale (9-1), with 9 being the highest available. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'strong pass'. You will be assessed through two exams:

- An exam which will test your ability to analyse a 19th-century novel and a Shakespeare play.
- The second exam will assess your response to drama and poetry, including unseen poetry.

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE English Literature, you will need to:

- Have outstanding attendance and punctuality to lessons.
- Read from a wide range of texts in your own time.
- Take ownership of your learning and be prepared to read and work hard on difficult texts.
- Take heed of feedback from your teacher following each assessment.
- Develop ambitious vocabulary.

### What can I do after a GCSE in this course?

Gaining a good grade at GCSE will further your chances of studying English Literature at A-Level. It will also give the necessary essay writing and critical thinking skills you will need to enrol for other Humanities-based courses.

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

The skills you learn when studying GCSE English Literature are transferable to all areas - an English degree is highly regarded by employers. Journalism, including editorial work, is popular. Teaching is also popular.

# Mathematics

## Edexcel

### What will I learn on this course?

In this course, you will study familiar topics such as data-handling, algebra and number work in more depth as well as investigate new areas such as trigonometry, circle theorems, vectors and proof. You will also have the opportunity to further develop your communication and reasoning skills and learn problem solving strategies.

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

Mathematics is the language of the universe and so helps us to understand the amazing and complex world around us. Your Mathematics GCSE is also an essential qualification if you would like to pursue further studies.

### How will I be assessed?

There will be three exams, each one and half hours long, taken at the end of Year 11. The course will cover the following areas:

- Number and Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change.
- Geometry and Measures
- Probability and Statistics

In the exam, there will be questions involving solving problems, which may need you to complete several steps to get to an answer.

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE Mathematics, you will need to:

- Work with consistent focus and effort throughout the course.
- Take responsibility for your own learning by regularly reviewing your work, completing homework tasks on time and asking questions to clarify understanding.
- Build competency and fluency in numeracy skills (using booklets from Y7 and Y8). This will be a key skill in exams.

### What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

If you get a grade '5' or above in this course, you will be able to pursue further studies. If you get a grade '7' or above, you would have the opportunity to study A Level Mathematics. Also, most colleges will require at least a grade '6' or '7' in GCSE Maths to be able to apply for A level Sciences.

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

A good GCSE grade in Mathematics will allow you to choose A Levels and a degree in a variety of fields including Mathematics, Statistics, and Physics. These include careers in accountancy, engineering, economics, finance, teaching and computing.

# Combined Science

## Edexcel

### What will I learn on this course?

During this course, you will learn about a range of topics from across all three sciences, including genetics and health in Biology, acids and reactions in Chemistry, and radioactivity and static electricity in Physics. You will also learn practical scientific skills, carrying out many experiments and learning to take accurate results and make good conclusions and evaluations which will be tested during the exams.

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

Learning about science will fire your curiosity about the world around you. You will learn about how science works, how it affects everyday life and how you can use your science when you work, rest, shop and play. Learning about science will also help you to understand how our world is in a delicate balance, how our actions affect the world around us and how we can work together to use science to improve lives.

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in the following way:

- There will be six 1 hour 10 minutes examinations (Biology 1, Biology 2, Chemistry 1, Chemistry 2, Physics 1 and Physics 2) at the end of the course in Year 11.
- These papers will include testing of experiments carried out during the delivery of the course. *There is no controlled assessment component to Science.*
- This GCSE course is completed in Year 11 and you will be awarded two grades (Double Award) after completing the exams.

As it is a combined award, you will receive two grades. Grading will be on a 17 point scale (9-9 to 11), with 9-9 being the highest available. A Grade 5-5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'strong pass'.

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE Science, you will need to:

- Attend all lessons (because any absence will affect the grade that you achieve).
- Learn the skills of scientific investigation (planning, concluding and evaluating).
- Thoroughly practise carrying out scientific calculations as they now contribute to 30% of the overall grade.
- Take personal responsibility for revising for the exams as all the exams for the double award will all be completed at the end of Year 11.

### What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

If you get a grade '6-7' or above in this course, you will be able to study A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. If you get grade '5', you will be able to study a full-time vocational course in Science at college.

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

A very good GCSE grade in Combined Science in Year 11 will allow you to choose A Levels and a degree that can lead to all sorts of scientific careers such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, audiology, midwifery, forensic Science and many more. A good grade in Science will also help you to go into careers such as laboratory technician, nursing and childcare.

## Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)

Edexcel

### What will I learn on this course?

During this course, you will learn about a range of topics from across all three sciences, including genetic modification and body control systems in Biology, quantitative and qualitative analysis in Chemistry, and astronomy and electromagnetism in Physics. You will also learn practical scientific skills, carrying out many experiments and learning to take accurate results and make good conclusions and evaluations which will be tested during the exams.

### Why are GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry & Physics important for everyday life?

Learning about science will help you to understand how our world is in a delicate balance, how our actions affect not only our immediate environments but globally too, and how we can work together to use science to improve lives. It will allow you to appreciate how things work and the contributions of different scientists to our understanding of the world around us.

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in the following way:

- There will be six 1 hour 45 minutes examinations (Biology 1, Biology 2, Chemistry 1, Chemistry 2, Physics 1 and Physics 2) at the end of the course in Year 11.
- These papers will include the testing of experiments carried out during the delivery of the course. *There is no controlled assessment component to Science.*

This GCSE course is completed in Year 11 and you will be awarded three separate grades upon completion. These grades will range from '9' (highest) to '1' (lowest) for each of the three GCSEs. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'strong pass'.

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics, you will need to:

- Attend all lessons (because any absence will affect the grade that you achieve).
- Learn the skills of scientific investigation (planning, concluding and evaluating).
- Thoroughly practice carrying out scientific calculations as they now contribute to 30% of the overall grade
- Take personal responsibility for revising for the exams as all the exams for the separate sciences will all be completed at the end of Year 11

### What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

If you get a grade '6' or above in any of the three GCSEs, you will be able to study A Levels in that subject (Biology, Chemistry or Physics). If you get a grade '5', you will be able to study a full-time vocational course in Science at college.

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

Very good GCSE grades (9-6) in Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Year 11 will allow you to choose A Levels and a degree that can lead to all sorts of scientific careers such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, audiology, midwifery, forensic Science and many more. A good grade in these subjects (Grade 5) will also help you to go into careers such as laboratory technician, nursing and childcare.

# French

## AQA

### What will I learn on this course?

During this course, you will cover a wide range of topics such as family and friends, school, home, interests and hobbies, healthy living, films and TV, the world of work, holidays, shopping and the environment in French. You will practice and develop these topics in relation to the four key skills in languages: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing.

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

Learning a European language can be very useful. 94% of the planet don't speak English as their mother tongue, 75% do not speak English at all. Learning French will enable you to find out about different cultures. Learning another language will improve your communications skills.

### How will I be assessed?

This is a GCSE course which will be completed at the end of Year 10.

- You will complete an exam in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening (each exam is worth 25% of the grade).
- At the end of the course, you will get a grade 9-1, with 9 the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'strong pass'.

You will be assessed in the following way:

- **Listening** and understanding a number of passages or interactions (25% of your grade).
- **Speaking** about different themes for 10-12minutes. The conversation will include a role-play, a photo card and a general conversation (25% of your grade).
- **Reading** understanding and responding to different types of written language and a translation from French to English. (25% of your grade).
- **Writing** exam consisting of two tasks from a choice of four questions and a translation from English to French (25% of your grade).

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE French, you will need to:

- Try to participate as much as possible in class by speaking French as much as you can and to try and get the accent right.
- Complete all given homework to the best of your ability. Ask the teacher to explain something again when it's not clear.
- Make sure you have a French dictionary.
- Prepare really well for the end-of-unit tests.
- Finally, don't miss out any opportunity to go to France or another French speaking country!

### What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

If you get a good grade in this course, you will be able to study French at A-level. At university, regardless of the degree you're studying, you will be able to take part in Erasmus, which is an exchange program that will enable you to spend some time in a university in Europe.

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

There are a range of career opportunities for you if you study French to a higher level. The majority of employers prefer to recruit people with languages skills. A good GCSE or A Level grade in French and any degree will enable you to work for an international company anywhere around the world.

# Religious Studies

## AQA

### What will I learn on this course?

You will cover two components of study over the course of two years, focusing on Islam and Christianity.

- The first component consists of the study of religions, with a detailed exploration of Muslim and Christian beliefs, teachings and practices.
- The second component focuses on thematic studies, allowing for the exploration of a range of different issues including relationships and families, religion and life, peace and conflict, and crime and punishment. This component also looks at different views in contemporary British society.

You will learn to develop your skills in drawing out and explaining the meaning and religious significance of the key elements of the religions studied. You will also support, interpret and evaluate a variety of responses, recognising the complexity of issues, weighing up opinions and making reasoned judgments supported by a range of evidence and well-developed arguments.

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

Religious Studies is not about making you 'religious', it is about enabling you to think for yourself about religious and moral issues. It is about you, your life and the issues you will face when you leave school and go into the multi-ethnic, multi-faith society which is the UK.

This course is important for:

- Learning about other people's beliefs, the nature of the society you live in and the big issues in life which generate debate.
- Gaining an understanding of what causes prejudice, hatred and violence in our world.
- Having the opportunity to explore religious and moral beliefs in a safe environment.

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by two 1 hour 45 minute exams. The course will be 100% exam based. This course is completed in Year 10 and will be awarded grades 9- 1.

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

- To actively participate in classwork and discussions.
- To revise regularly (weekly).
- To prepare thoroughly & perform well in internal assessments.

### What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

A-Level Religious Studies, Social Sciences, History, English.

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

Teaching, social work, journalism, politics, law, charity & development work.

# Subjects which are part of Other Options

## Art & Design

AQA

### What will I learn on this course?

During this course, you will learn to use a variety of techniques, materials and resources as you develop your skills in art and design. You will also learn about a range of tools such as traditional hand crafts and some computer-aided technology. You will develop your imaginative powers and the skills to express your ideas, feelings and meanings visually and written. You will also develop an understanding of the language of art and design and the place of art, craft and design in history and in society.

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

Learning about Art and Design will help to fire your creativity and imagination. It will allow you to value artistic expression and understand different perspectives and ways of communicating feelings.

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through:

- A Portfolio of work that must include a journal of all of your artwork – this counts towards 60% of your grade.
- A set assignment that is timed and completed under test conditions – this is worth 40% of your grade. At the end of the course, you will receive a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'strong pass'.

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE Art & Design, you will need to:

- Be really interested in Art and good at drawing and design.
- Be able to write about your work, ideas and research.
- Maintain your journal of artwork throughout the year.
- Work really hard to prepare excellent Art coursework.

### What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

If you get a good grade in GCSE Art & Design, you could go on to take an AS or A level in Art & Design, a Vocational A level in Art & Design or a related subject. If you know the area of art, craft or design you want to specialise in, you could study for a National Certificate or National Diploma in Art & Design.

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

A good GCSE grade in Art & Design will allow you to choose A levels and further study that leads to careers in graphics, advertising, marketing, design, fashion design and architecture.

# Citizenship

AQA

### What will I learn on this course?

Citizenship is at the heart of everyday debates about the kind of society we are striving to build and our role in the process. During this GCSE course, you will learn about your rights, roles and responsibilities as a young citizen in Britain and in the world. You will develop in your knowledge and understanding of how different communities and society works. Citizenship education will equip you with the skills you need to participate as a responsible and active citizen of our democracy and of wider society. Citizenship thus ensures your personal, intellectual, spiritual and social development as a young citizen in Britain.

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

This course is crucial as it develops your knowledge and understanding of the structures that govern your everyday life. It will make you aware of your moral rights and responsibilities in places such as school, the workplace and the local community. You will also become knowledgeable about politics, law and the media and will be given the opportunity to explore current issues of debate.

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in the following way:

- Paper 1 Section A (Active citizenship) & B (politics & participation).
  1 hour 45 mins written exam with 80 marks (50% of GCSE)
- Paper 2 Section A (life in modern Britain) & Section B (Rights and responsibilities).
  1 hour 45 mins written exam with 80 marks (50% of GCSE)

At the end of the course, you will receive a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'strong pass'.

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE Citizenship, you will need to:

- Participate actively during discussion and debate.
- Keep up with current affairs and apply this knowledge and understanding to exams.
- Prepare fully for tests and exams.
- Maintain a responsible and proactive approach.

### What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

You may choose to pursue A-levels in Citizenship, Law, Politics and related subjects. This full course will however be welcomed by any further education option and the knowledge, understanding and skills developed throughout Citizenship will be fundamental in your future progression in education.

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

A good GCSE grade in Citizenship provides the backbone and skills necessary for any career in life. It will allow you to choose A Levels and a degree that can lead to careers in law, journalism and teaching. A good qualification in Citizenship also speaks volumes about your character as a responsible, aware and active citizen in society.

# Food Preparation & Nutrition

## AQA

### What will I learn on this course?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure you develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing your practical cookery skills. It will equip you with an array of culinary techniques, as well as knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety. Best of all you can eat some of your classwork!

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

Understanding what food is composed of, and being able to produce meals that are attractive, tasty and nutritious, is a valuable life-skill. What we consume affects our long-term health and that of our families.

The five core topics are:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

### How will I be assessed?

- You will complete two Non Exam Assessments in year 11
- You will complete one exam in the Summer of year 11

At the end of the course, you will get a grade 9-1, with 9 the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'strong pass'.

You will be assessed in the following way:
The NEA 1 comprises of a food investigation based on a task set by AQA. For example last year one of the 3 tasks you could choose was - 'Investigate the functional and chemical properties of eggs and other ingredients when making meringue.'

- In this task you have to demonstrate your understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients by doing 3 or more practical trials.
- Time given no more than 10 hours
- Outcome: written report including photographic evidence (1500-2000 words) – this accounts for 15% of the marks awarded in the GCSE.

The NEA 2 comprises of 35% of the marks. From topics given by AQA, students make dishes to demonstrate their technical skill and understanding of working characteristics. This leads up to a 3 hour practical in exam conditions when 3 complex dishes should be made. For this task students must produce a concise portfolio (not exceeding 20 A4 sides or A3 equivalent). Photographic evidence of all the work done for NEA2 should be included.

The written exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes and comprises of multiple choice questions, and a mixture of question styles including short essay questions. The exam is worth 50% of the final marks.

## What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition you will need to:

- Try to participate as much as possible in class by preparing for lessons beforehand.
- Practise cooking at home. Build up skills in time management, multi-tasking and planning. Build up a folder of recipes from family, friends, magazines, books and the internet. Don't be afraid to experiment with ingredients/recipes which are new to you.
- Complete all given homework to the best of your ability. Ask the teacher to explain something again when it's not clear.
- Prepare really well for the end-of-unit tests.
- There are a wealth of resources to be used on TV, YouTube, and websites: supermarkets give away free magazines for recipes, recipe books and magazines are available in the library and the food room and AQA text books and revision guides online and in hard copy.
- You could buy revision guides, but make sure they are up-to-date and relate to the AQA specification.
- Find out about local food from producers in farmers' markets or food shows.
- Finally, don't miss out any opportunity to go food shopping as this helps with budgeting, understanding provenance, seasonality and realising the choices available. Look at the food in farmers' markets and if you can eat out in this country and while on holiday in other countries this broadens your ideas!

## What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

Colleges and Universities run courses linked to catering and hospitality, food science, food technology, environmental health.

## What career opportunities are there from this course?

There are a range of career opportunities for you if you study Food Preparation and Nutrition at GCSE. Upon completion of this course, you will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the catering or food industries.There is a skills shortage in the food industry at present. Careers include Food Scientist, Nutritionist, Dietician, Food Technician, Food buyer, Chef, Development Chef, Hospitality and Catering, Teacher, Environmental Health practitioner, Food critic, and many more.

# Geography
AQA

### What will I learn on this course?

You will study the physical and human aspects of the world. You will learn the extent to which human beings have had an impact on physical changes of the earth. Fieldwork is an essential element of this. Geography will inspire you to become global citizens by exploring your own place in the world, your responsibilities to other people, to the environment and to the sustainability of the planet.

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

The study of geography stimulates an interest in and a sense of wonder about our planet. It helps young people make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world. It builds on pupils' own experiences to investigate places at all scales, from the personal to the global. Geographical enquiry encourages questioning, investigation and critical thinking about issues affecting the world and people's lives, now and in the future.

### How will I be assessed?

We will be following the AQA specification. There are three examined units:

- Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment (Natural hazards, Physical landscapes of the UK & the Living world) 35% of the GCSE (88 marks) in an exam that is 1 hour 30 minutes long.
- Paper 2: Challenges to the Human environment (Urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world & the challenge of resources management) 35% of the GCSE (88 marks) in an exam which is 1 hour 30 minutes long.
- Paper 3: Geographical applications (issues analysis and field work) 30% of the GCSE (76 marks) in an exam which is 1 hour long.

At the end of the course, you will receive a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'strong pass'.

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

- To have a keen interest in Geography, in particular physical Geography where Maths and Science play a key role.
- Work really hard to achieve a good level at KS3.

### What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

Geography is one of the broadest subjects available and compliments both science and art based subjects. You can study A Level Geography and supporting subjects like Maths, Biology, Economics, Business, Sociology and Psychology. Vocational subjects like travel and tourism or health and social care can also be studied. Further specialisation into geology, travel and tourism and environmental studies can take place at University.

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

Careers for keen Geography students include Urban planner and community development, Climatologists, Environmental Management, Geographical Systems Information Officer, Landscape architect, Surveyor/Real Estate Appraisal and teaching.

# History

AQA

### What will I learn on this course?

We believe in the importance of learning from History. That's why we have chosen a specification that enables students to study different aspects of the past, so they can engage with key issues such as conflict, understand what drives change and how the influence the present.

The specification includes exciting new topics for today's world that will resonate with students, helping them to gain new insights into the world around them. You will learn to make important connections and comparisons between different aspects of the events and themes studied. You will also learn to describe, analyse and evaluate the important causes and consequences of historical events and situations. You will be challenged to assess the significance of individuals, events, developments and ideas in the history studied and assessed on the use of your source analysis skills.

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

The study of History stimulates an interest in how far our lives, and world, have been shaped by the past. By studying twentieth century History, it helps young people to make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world. It also challenges students to investigate historical questions and issues by reflecting upon the progress made throughout time.

### How will I be assessed?

There are four elements, covered across two papers:

Paper 1: Part A: Germany: Democracy and Dictatorship 1890-1945
Paper 1 Part B: Conflict and Tension the Inter War Years 1919-1939

Paper 2: Part A: Britain: People and Health c.1000- present day.
Paper 2: Part B: Elizabethan England 1568-1603

At the end of the course, you will receive a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'strong pass'.

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

- To actively participate in class work/discussions
- To revise regularly (weekly) from class notes and any additional research carried out on the topic

### What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

- A-Level History
- A-Level Sociology
- A-Level Psychology
- A-Level Politics
- A-Level Economics

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

Teaching, research, economics, journalism, politics, law, policy making and criminology.

## Computer Science (GCSE Entry 2019 – Year 11)

Edexcel

### What will I learn on this course?

During the GCSE Computer Science course, you will develop an understanding of Computer Science methods in the real world, providing you with a real study of computation and reflection on today's global world. You will study principles of computer science and application of computational thinking. Following on from more visual programming environments, programming skills will be developed further using high level textual programming languages.

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

Computer Science is used throughout your daily life; in fact life without technology life is unimaginable these days. In Computer Science, you will be able to start thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. This course also allows you to apply mathematical skills to Computer Science and allow you to understand the impact of digital technology to the individual and wider society. As well as understanding the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate you will be analysing problems in computational terms.

### How will I be assessed?

GCSE Computer Science is assessed through two written examinations in year 11. Each exam is worth 50% of your final grade. You will also be required to undertake a programming project during Year 11. The project will not count towards your final grade but must be completed to fulfil the requirements of the exam board. The project is completed under supervision in class and is set by Edexcel.

- Component 1 – Principles of Computer Science (1hour 40 minutes)
- Component 2 - Application of Computational Thinking (2 hours)

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in Computer Science, you will need to:

- Have access to a computer at home - internet connection is desirable, but not essential.
- Ensure you understand each topic.
- Ensure that you meet project deadlines.
- Work with commitment and have a positive attitude to solve problems.
- Be a good team-worker willing to help others and also learn from them.

### What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

The rigorous approach of this course will facilitate a smooth transition to the next level of study.
If you achieve a grade 6, you will be able to pursue an A level in Computer Science, Mathematics.

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

Computer Science skills and knowledge are useful in whichever direction you choose to embark upon. Possible career choices are: Graphic Design, Web Development, Accountancy, Engineering, Science, Mathematics, Software Engineering and Teaching.

## Computer Science (GCSE Entry 2020 onwards – Year 9 and Year 10)

OCR

### What will I learn on this course?

During the GCSE Computer Science course, you will develop an understanding of Computer Science methods in the real world, providing you with a real study of computation and reflection on today's global world.

Component 1 (Computer systems) introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

In component 2 (Computational thinking, algorithms and programming) students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 1. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and data representation. The skills and knowledge developed within this component will support the learner when completing the Programming Project.

Students use OCR Programming Project tasks to develop their practical ability in the skills developed in components 1 and 2. They will have the opportunity to define success criteria from a given problem, and then create suitable algorithms to achieve the success criteria. Students then code their solutions in a suitable programming language, and check its functionality using a suitable and documented test plan. Finally they will evaluate the success of their solution and reflect on potential developments for the future. Student are given time to complete their Programming Project. The Programming Project does not count towards a candidate's final grade, but is a requirement of the course.

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

Computer Science is used throughout your daily life; in fact life without technology life is unimaginable these days. In Computer Science, you will be able to start thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. This course also allows you to apply mathematical skills to Computer Science and allow you to understand the impact of digital technology to the individual and wider society. As well as understanding the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate you will be analysing problems in computational terms.

### How will I be assessed?

GCSE Computer Science is assessed through two written examinations in year 11. Each exam is worth 50% of your final grade. You will also be required to undertake a programming project during Year 11. The project will not count towards your final grade but must be completed to fulfil the requirements of the exam board. The project is completed under supervision in class and is set by OCR.

- Component 1: Computer Systems (1 hour 30 minutes)
- Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (1 hour 30 minutes)

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in Computer Science, you will need to:

- Have access to a computer at home - internet connection is desirable, but not essential.
- Ensure you understand each topic.
- Ensure that you meet project deadlines.
- Work with commitment and have a positive attitude to solve problems.
- Be a good team-worker willing to help others and also learn from them.

### What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

The rigorous approach of this course will facilitate a smooth transition to the next level of study. If you achieve a grade 6, you will be able to pursue an A level in Computer Science, Mathematics.

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

Computer Science skills and knowledge are useful in whichever direction you choose to embark upon. Possible career choices are: Graphic Design, Web Development, Accountancy, Engineering, Science, Mathematics, Software Engineering and Teaching.

# BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

Edexcel

## What will I learn on this course?

You will learn and develop skills and knowledge in a practical learning environment, including:
• project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data
• project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct
• how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues

## Why is this course important for everyday life?

BTEC courses are designed to help students develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning to work-related contexts. The course will help you acquire knowledge and technical skills about Information Technology. Knowledge and understanding of Information Technology is important in nearly all aspects of modern life.

## How will I be assessed?

The course is made up of three components: two that are internally assessed and one that's externally assessed.

| | |
|---|---|
| Component 1: Internally assessed assignments | 30% of course |
| Component 2: Internally assessed assignments | 30% of course |
| Component 3: Written exam paper | 40% of course |

## What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in, you will need to:

- Have access to a computer at home - internet connection is desirable, but not essential.
- Ensure you work regularly on the assignments you are set.
- Ensure that you meet assignment deadlines.
- Work with commitment and have a positive attitude to solve problems.
- Be a good team-worker willing to help others and also learn from them.

## What can I do after completing this course?

There is clear progression onto Level 3 study for students who want to explore digital information technology further.

## What career opportunities are there from this course?

A BTEC Tech Award will give you important knowledge and skills and could be your first step towards a future career in the digital sector. The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK, with 1.46 million people working in digital companies and around 45,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time. Digital skills span all industries; almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. Jobs in the sector include data analyst, technical support, junior designer; business analyst, test analyst, database administrator and software developer.

# Physical Education

## Edexcel

### What will I learn on this course?

This course will develop your knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities, examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance. During the course you will identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity and find ways to improve your own performances in a variety of roles.

### Why is this course important for everyday life?

This course will help you to maintain a keen interest in sport and recreation and will improve your performance levels in a range of sports roles. It allows you to maintain a well-balanced, healthy and active lifestyle which will help you to cope will daily stresses and work load. The course also provides leadership training where skills can be utilised in daily tasks.

### How will I be assessed?

The GCSE PE course is assessed over four components:

Component 1 - Fitness and Body Systems: written examination paper 36% of final mark.

Component 2 - Health and Performance: written examination paper 24% of final mark

Components 1 and 2 written assessment will include multiple choice, short answer and extended answer questions.

Component 3: Practical Performance: internally assessed. Consists of completing three activities from a set list of which one must be a team activity, one must be an individual activity and the final can be a free choice from the activity list. 30% of final mark.

Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme: internally assessed by producing a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP). The assessment consists of analysing a proposed PEP, carrying out and monitoring the PEP and evaluating the PEP. 10% of final mark.

At the end of the course, you will receive a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'strong pass'.

### What will I need to do to succeed in this course?

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE PE, you will have to:

- Have a keen interest in sport and recreation
- Take part in sport/recreation outside of class time
- Ensure that you meet controlled assessment deadlines. Work with the utmost commitment and attend all lessons punctually

### What can I do after GCSEs from this course?

Provides a route for A Level Physical Education courses. It allows for progression to related vocational qualifications such as BTEC Firsts and Nationals in Sports or Sport and Exercise Sciences.

### What career opportunities are there from this course?

This course will develop skills and knowledge that can allow progression into careers such as Sports Science, Sports Physiotherapy, Sports Medicine, Biomechanics etc. This course also allows you to develop transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities. This can include training in such areas as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, officiating, the fitness industry and civil service.

# ‘Core Curriculum’ Non-GCSE Subjects

## Physical Education

All students in Years 9, 10 and 11 will have at least one hour of physical education timetabled in the week. In addition to this, there will be termly Sports’ Days and other programmes relating to sports’ leadership that will provide a second hour of physical education on average each week.

Physical education lessons will focus on individual and team skills in a range of sports as well as focusing on improving personal fitness and health.

## Star Baccalaureate Award

The Star Baccalaureate will award students who attend school well, work hard and show a positive attitude in lessons and take part in volunteering. There are 4 awards that your daughter can achieve at the end of the year (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum). To obtain an award, you will need to meet the minimum scores outlined below:


You can collect up to 10 points in each of the three categories: attendance, behaviour and community service as outlined below:

| Points | ATTENDANCE (%) | BEHAVIOUR (NET) | COMMUNITY SERVICE (HRS) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 100 (0 days missed) | 50+ | 80+ |
| 9 | 99.5 (1 days missed) | 45-49 | 72-79 |
| 8 | 99 (2 days missed) | 40-44 | 64-71 |
| 7 | 98.5 (3 days missed) | 35-39 | 56-63 |
| 6 | 98 (4 days missed) | 30-34 | 48-55 |
| 5 | 97.5 (5 days missed) | 25-29 | 40-47 |
| 4 | 97 (6 days missed) | 20-24 | 32-39 |
| 3 | 96.5 (7 days missed) | 15-19 | 24-31 |
| 2 | 96 (8 days missed) | 10-14 | 16-23 |
| 1 | 95.5 (9 days missed) | 5-9 | 8-15 |

For more information about the ‘Star Baccalaureate’, and suggestions for volunteering activities, please read the section in your student planner.