



Wychwood School
OXFORD

GCSE Courses Booklet

2022 – 2024

GCSE Courses at Wychwood

This booklet summarises the aims, assessment objectives and form of the various GCSE examinations, and is intended to help you and your daughter in deciding which subjects she wishes to study for the next two years.

At Wychwood most pupils take 9.5 subjects at GCSE. Variations on this are possible on an individual basis. In order to provide breadth and balance and in preparation for university matriculation requirements, the compulsory core curriculum consists of English, Mathematics, trilogy science (worth 2 GCSEs and covering aspects of chemistry, physics and biology), a modern foreign language (MFL) (mother tongue possible, dependent on EAL and SEND requirements), a humanity, short-course RS worth 0.5 of a GCSE and non-GCSE PE. This leaves most pupils three further subjects to choose – triple science (resulting in 3 separate GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology), a second MFL or humanity should be considered and at least one creative subject should form part of the mix.

Pupils are asked to list their choices in order of preference. This is because we are a small school and so we may have to ask that pupils make an alternative choice if timetable clashes dictate this. We will make every effort to minimise the timetable clashes by designing the timetable blocks to suit the maximum number of pupils. The blocks are organised differently each year, based on pupils' preferences as indicated in initial interviews with staff and after consultation with parents. Please return subject choices as soon as possible and certainly by the deadline as once the subject blocks are set, it is only possible to change subjects in the context of the existing blocks. We will always consult pupils and parents where there is a clash.

The school week comprises 55 half hour periods. Consideration should be given to fitting in instrumental music lessons and practices as well as other extra-curricular commitments both inside and outside school when making choices.

Any study periods will be spent under supervision in the library or the art block, doing prep.

Pupils are required to attend Council on Wednesdays for one period if they show themselves sufficiently responsible to be elected as form representative to Council. This honour usually lasts for one term at a time. Citizens are called to Council on average twice a term.

GCSE Subjects

Core Curriculum

There are two options for English – either English language leading to one GCSE or English language and English literature taken as two separate subjects, leading to two GCSEs.

The minimum requirement in science is that pupils do trilogy science which leads to two GCSEs. Separate sciences is the other option and the pupils would then receive grades in biology, chemistry and physics, with three separate grades.

There are two curriculum options for MFL – French and Spanish.

There are two curriculum options for the humanity offered – geography and history.

Most subjects are run on 3 hours a week or 6 half hourly periods.

Core Curriculum Information

Subject	Notes
English literature	This must be taken with English language. In order to study English literature at A Level, pupils will need to have followed the GCSE course.
English language	This may be taken with English literature or alone.
Mathematics	This is an international GCSE (IGCSE).
Double science (Trilogy)	Double science is taught as biology, chemistry and physics. Each subject has 1.5 hours a week.
MFL	MFL options are either French or Spanish but at least one must be taken. A MFL GCSE in her mother tongue is also possible.
Humanity	The humanities offered are geography and history. In exceptional cases drama may be considered as the humanity.
RS short course	1 hour a week.
Non GCSE PE	All pupils are required to do PE.

Options Curriculum Information

Subject	Notes
Art	
Computer science	No prior knowledge of a computer language is needed.
Drama	Sufficient pupils must opt for this course for it to run.
Music	Pupils should have at least one instrument to offer for GCSE music, which can be voice. In addition to the GCSE lessons, students must also take a weekly instrumental or vocal lesson, either in school or with a private external teacher. There is an additional charge for instrumental lessons taken at Wychwood.
Photography	There is an associated charge for materials and a suitable camera is required at the start of the course (not a mobile phone camera).
PE	Sufficient pupils must opt for this course to allow it to run. Pupils must be able to offer three sports at a good standard and ideally should be competing/training at club level outside of school.
Psychology	
Textiles	
Triple science	Triple science is taught as biology, chemistry and physics. Triple science requires a total of 15 lessons or 7.5 hours a week split evenly between physics, chemistry and biology.

Why study computer science?

You have grown up in a world where technology is evolving rapidly, changing the way that people work in every area from medicine and fashion to engineering and economics. So whatever your career plans, it is vital to develop your grasp of these ideas and concepts that will shape your world.

GCSE computer science is an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they are used. A chance to develop skills in computer programming and problem solving. This two unit course gives you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on 'behind the scenes'.

Who will enjoy it?

You need to be able to think logically and enjoy solving puzzles. Computer science is creative and you will get a sense of satisfaction from getting something to work for yourself, especially when programming. If you have enjoyed creating a game in Scratch, designing an app or experimenting with Python or Small Basic then computer science could be for you. We do not expect you to start the course as expert programmers. All we ask is that you are willing to experiment with different ideas and be prepared to be creative and 'have a go'.

What skills will I get from it?

In addition to developing your IT skills, this course will help you to learn about critical thinking, analysis and problem solving. Skills that can be transferred into other subjects and applied in day-to-day life.

The course is divided into two units. Both units are assessed through a final written examination, each worth 50% of the final mark. Questions will be a mix of short and medium answer questions with one 8 mark extended response question. Throughout the course there will be weekly practical programming tasks.

What will I learn?

You will look at computer systems and will learn about the theory of a wide range of issues such as hardware and software, the representation of data in computer systems, databases, computer communications and networking and more. Theoretical concepts are explored in fun and interactive ways – computing lessons can be challenging but never dull!

How could it help with my future?

Studying computer science will give you valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the workplace. Careers in robotics, design, fashion, engineering, finance, science and medicine are all open to you. Looking to study the subject further then GCSE computer science is an excellent foundation.

Which examination board of study will I follow?

OCR J277 GCSE Computer Science (9-1)

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/>

Drama

Edexcel 1DRO

GCSE Drama encourages students to develop a variety of creative skills including acting, improvisation, analysis, group work and communication.

The students will learn to respond to a variety of stimuli, encouraging the expression of ideas and meanings through the language of drama. They will explore a range of drama forms – recognising them in others' work through group and individual activities. Script work will be used to aid understanding of how practitioners realise text in performance, as well as giving the student opportunity to develop her own performance skills.

Assessment takes place in the final term of Year 10 and throughout Year 11 in the following ways:

Component 1: Devising (Coursework: 40% of the qualification)

- Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus.
- Performance of this devised piece or design realisation for this performance.
- Analyse and evaluate the devising process and performance.
- Performer or designer routes available.

Assessment overview

Internally assessed and externally moderated. There are two parts to the assessment:

1. A portfolio covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of this process. The portfolio submission recommendations are: can be handwritten/typed evidence between 1500–2000 words OR can be recorded/verbal evidence between 8–10 minutes OR can be a combination of handwritten/typed evidence (between 750–1000 words) and recorded/verbal evidence (between 4–5 minutes)
2. A devised performance/design realisation (15 marks, assessing AO2).

Component 2: Performance from Text (Coursework: 20% of the qualification)

- Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text.
- Performer or designer routes available.

Assessment overview

Externally assessed by visiting examiner.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes) 40% of the qualification

- Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text.
- Live theatre evaluation – free choice of production.

Assessment overview

- Section A: Bringing Texts to Life. This section consists of one question broken into six parts (short and extended responses) based on an unseen extract from the chosen performance text.
- Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation
- This section consists of two questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen.

Mrs M Constance BEd (Hons) MA

English Language

AQA 8700

English language must be taken with English literature if a pupil is considering English literature at A Level. Usually at Wychwood we will run two English language classes to allow the specific needs of our pupils to be met.

For GCSE English language pupils will read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism. These will be read and evaluated critically and comparisons will be made between texts. Pupils will summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing.

They will write accurately, effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately. Pupils will also be expected to listen to and understand spoken language, and use spoken Standard English effectively.

The final mark and numerical grade of this linear course will be drawn from performance in two equally weighted examinations of 1 ¾ hours at the end of Shell (Year 11). The reading and writing component of each paper has equal weighting.

The first examination is on 'explorations in creative reading and writing' and aims to engage the pupils in a creative text and to inspire them to write creatively themselves.

The second examination on 'writers' viewpoints and perspectives' aims to develop the pupils' insights into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives. Pupils will compare linked sources and they will be encouraged to express their own viewpoints on the same theme.

Please note that whilst the Spoken Language endorsement of this qualification will be reported on as part of the qualification, it will not form part of the final mark and grade.

Ms B Sherlock, BA (Hons), M.Ed, PGCE

English Literature

AQA 8702

The course aims to encourage pupils to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literature, drawn from contemporary and modern texts, and texts which have a significant influence on our English literary and cultural heritage. Pupils will develop the skills necessary for literary study. Those who choose this course should be prepared to read widely and independently to strengthen their understanding and to acquire a more mature and fluent written style, both essential foundations for future advanced studies in English literature.

English Literature is a 'facilitating subject' for the purposes of University applications. Many universities require English Literature GCSE as part of the GCSE portfolio. In order to study English Literature at A Level, pupils will need to have followed the GCSE course.

The course comprises the study of a Shakespeare play and a nineteenth century novel accounting for 40% of the overall grade and examined in a 1 ¾ hour closed book examination paper. Modern (from 1914 onwards) British fiction or drama, a poetry anthology from 1789 including representative Romantic poems to the present day and a response to unseen poetry accounts for 60% of the GCSE and is examined in a 2 ¼ hour closed book examination.

Likely texts to be studied are:

Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' or 'The Merchant of Venice'

Robert Louis Stevenson's 'Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde'

J.B. Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls'

The Love and Relationships poetry cluster featuring works by Byron, Shelley, Browning, Barrett-Browning, Hardy, Bridges, Mew, Causley, Heaney, Armitage, Duffy, Sheers, Nagra and Waterhouse.

Further poetry is studied in preparation for the response to unseen poetry.

Ms B Sherlock, BA (Hons), M.Ed, PGCE

Fine Art

Edexcel 1FA0

The Art and Design (Fine Art) GCSE is examined on the basis of Component 1: a personal portfolio (60%), completed throughout the course during art lessons, and Component 2: an externally set assignment (40%) – on a theme which will be explored, researched and responded to during from January in the Shell year (Year 11). This culminates in a supervised 10 hour exam at the end of the Hilary term.

Pupils produce their portfolio of coursework over the two years and build up a collection of sketches, studies, paintings and allied material. This, along with their externally set assignment is marked internally, and then moderated externally by a visiting examiner from the board, at the end of the course.

The syllabus is based on a strong core of 2D work: painting and drawing in a variety of materials to develop a wide range of technical skills. The traditional language of art and design: line, tone, form, texture, colour, etc., will be explored, and the use of sketch/work books forms an important part of the course. Visits are made to galleries and museums, either as a starting point for projects or where the exhibition is thought to be a valuable experience for any pupil working in this area. Some History of Art will be studied to cultivate an appreciation of painting and drawing from different periods and cultures.

Pupils are encouraged to work in much greater depth on a project than before, thinking, researching and planning for themselves. Consequently they develop a strong and confident personal style. This mature approach to the subject leads naturally on to A Level Art and beyond, to Foundation and then Degree level work.

Ms A Wardell, BA (Hons), MA

Geography plays a vital role in understanding and managing some of the most pressing challenges facing us today. Over the coming years, our world will be changing faster than ever before, affecting individuals, communities, nations and the planet as a whole. Geography in the 21st century is central to understanding the causes of these changes and their consequences in different places. This also includes the problems posed for the sustainable futures of societies, resources and landscapes. The world will need Geographers to make a difference. To understand the issues that will arise and the solutions that are needed to save the world.

We have chosen the new AQA specification because in the words of the examination board:

“Students will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.”

There are four areas to the course: Living with the physical environment, Living in the human environment, Geographical applications and Geographical skills.

- Each of the first two areas will be assessed by way of a written examination of 1 hour 30 minutes, with each paper being 35% of the overall qualification.
- The Geographical applications will be assessed through a 1 hour written examination, which accounts for the remaining 30% of the course.
- The Geographical skills will be assessed across the three written papers.
- The examinations will include a mixture of question types including multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose.

Subject content details

Living with the physical environment

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

Section B: Physical landscapes in the UK

Section C: The living world

Living in the human environment

Section A: Urban issues and challenges

Section B: The changing economic world

Section C: The challenge of resource management

Geographical applications

Section A: Issue evaluation

Section B: Fieldwork

Geographical skills

The specification will be taught linearly with the physical environment occupying the UT year and the human environment in the Shell year. The pupils will also complete two geographical enquiries, which will include collecting primary data outside the school in contrasting environments. Students currently undertake a long weekend of field work, that is integral to the course.

History

AQA A8145

The GCSE history course contains 4 separate topics, in two assessments:

Understanding the Modern World

1. Section A
Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy and dictatorship
This period study focuses on the development of Germany during a turbulent half century of change. It was a period of democracy and dictatorship – the development and collapse of democracy and the rise and fall of Nazism.
2. Section B
Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945-1972
This wider world depth study focuses on the causes and events of the Cold War and seeks to show how and why conflict occurred and why it proved difficult to resolve the tensions which arose between America and the Soviet Union.

Shaping the Nation

3. Section A
Britain: health and the people
In this study the pupils will gain an overview of the main changes and the trends in medicine and public health in Britain from 1100 to the present. We will study key individuals such as Hippocrates and Pasteur and look at factors that enabled them to make their contributions. We consider issues such as war, religion, chance, technology and government and evaluate the importance of these.
4. Section B
Elizabethan England, 1568-1603
This concentrates on various aspects of the government, life and culture of the England of Elizabeth I. We will explore and appreciate the important characteristics and dynamics of the period. This study offers a contrast of cultures, not only between rich and poor within the period, but also between the Elizabethans and ourselves. The students will also be examined on a specific site, such as a Tudor manor house, which will enrich their understanding of Elizabethan England.

Understanding the Modern World and Shaping the Nation are assessed in two separate exams, each providing 50% of the final mark.

This course aims to build up a detailed knowledge of events and ideas on a variety of periods and also encourages the pupil to analyse and evaluate people's actions. Active participation is encouraged from each pupil in class discussion and in the use of sources, and there is always at least one topic that each pupil finds particularly enjoyable.

Mr H Moore BA (Hons) PGCE

Mathematics

Edexcel International GCSE (Mathematics A)

Mathematics is a vital qualification for all job applications in later life. You will develop foundations for further study at A Level in Mathematics and related subjects such as the Sciences. In addition you will learn problem solving techniques and to think logically. At Wychwood, we prepare students for the Edexcel International GCSE in Mathematics, following the Mathematics A course. The content is similar to GCSE Mathematics, but with less emphasis on Statistics and more on Algebra and related topics. More information is available on the Edexcel website at <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-mathematics-a-2016.html>

There are two tiers of entry, Foundation and Higher. It is expected that usually most pupils will be entered for the Higher Tier examinations. Assessment is currently through two examinations taken at the end of the Shell (Year 11). There are no controlled assessments for the International GCSE in Mathematics.

There are two teaching groups for Mathematics. The decision on which teaching group is most suitable for each pupil will be made at the start of the Lower Transit year (Year 9), but it will be reviewed regularly in the light of later progress. Changes are made when an individual would benefit from being in a different group. The decision on which teaching group is most suitable for any new pupils will be based, initially, on the result of their entrance paper.

Miss V Stone, BSc (Hons) PGCE MSc (Oxon)

The new GCSE (9-1) Modern Foreign Language specifications focuses on a skills-based approach to learning which aims to create confident linguists in both spoken and written contexts.

It is a linear GCSE with assessment at the end of the two-year course in June. Learners must sit exams in all four skills at the same tier and assessment is predominantly by external exam only, using the new 9-1 grading system (9 = top level).

The best communication showing a real understanding of the foreign culture and environment, as well as the language, we want to encourage a positive approach, so that students will use their skills practically in authentic situations. This will be supported by parallel encouragement of traditional linguistic skills.

We expect that all language pupils will attend the trips that we organise to France and Spain on a regular basis as this will bring the language to life.

Pupils must complete all 4 components to be awarded the GCSE (9-1) Modern Foreign Languages in French and Spanish.

Listening	Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier) 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)	25% of total GCSE
Speaking	Non-exam assessment 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)	25% of total GCSE
Reading	Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier) 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)	25% of total GCSE
Writing	Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier) 50 marks at Foundation Tier 60 marks at Higher Tier	25% of total GCSE

Content

The new GCSE contains translation both from English into target language and from target language into English as well as Literature as part of the assessment. There are three main themes:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Miss M Boubkari BA PGCE
Mr L Jimenez LLB MA

What does the course involve?

There are four areas of study:

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

These are studied in three units:

Unit 1: Performing (30%)

- Students perform for at least four minutes' combined duration
- Solo performance: this must be of at least one minute in duration, and may comprise one or more pieces.
- Ensemble performance: this must be of at least one minute in duration, and may comprise one or more pieces.

Unit 2: Composing (30%)

- Students compose two compositions, of at least three minutes combined duration
- One composition is to a brief set by the examination board, of at least one minute in duration.
- One free composition to a brief set by the student, of at least one minute in duration.

Unit 3: Appraising (40%)

- This unit is assessed in a written examination at the end of the course. The length of the examination is one hour and forty-five minutes. During the examination, a CD with the musical extracts for each question is played to the students a set number of times. Students respond to questions based around the eight set works they have studied and a number of unfamiliar pieces.
- The paper is made up of two sections and is out of a total of 80 marks.
- In section A, there are six questions about the set works, a rhythmic/ melodic dictation exercise and a question on an unfamiliar piece.
- In section B, there is one extended essay question that asks students to compare and/or evaluate the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language of one set work with one unfamiliar piece of music.

This is a course that will expand a pupil's knowledge of music. They can expect to enjoy studying and listening to an interesting cross-section of styles and types of music, as well as writing their own music and performing both as a soloist and in groups.

Mrs B A Walster BMus (Hons) PGCE

Photography

Edexcel 1PY0

Photography is a practical course which provides pupils with the opportunity to be creative, expressive and imaginative in a wide variety of lens-based contexts. Pupils will have 3 hours of studio lessons per week and will be taken on appropriate workshop and exhibition trips. They will also be expected to work regularly outside the classroom.

Current GCSE pupils produce a series of projects over the course of their two years of study, on the themes of Portraiture, Still Life, Landscape, Architecture, Alternative Processes and Collage/Montage. As well as using Photoshop and iPhoto pupils will be introduced to iMovie and encouraged to make at least one short film or stop frame animation. Within this course framework pupils will be encouraged to employ techniques that they have been taught, refer to the work of artists discussed in lessons and explore their own particular interests and talents.

GCSE Photography has the potential to enable pupils to make a personal response to their own individual experiences, environments and culture. On a wider theme, the subject will enhance their understanding and provide practical experience of the role, purpose and function of photography in society. The course offers a thorough foundation for study at A Level, a valuable skill that can be used across all visual arts practice as well as an exciting interest or hobby that can be carried on in later life.

Pupils will need their own Digital SLR camera for the majority of their practical work as well as a suitable camera memory card and a USB for their work storage. They may work on their own laptops or iPads if they wish. There is no additional materials charge for this course.

Mr M Pennington, MA (RCA) Photography

Physical Education

AQA

We follow the AQA GCSE Physical Education syllabus which covers a wide range of theoretical as well as practical elements.

The theoretical side consists of two written papers, which is taken at the end of the course, carrying 60% of the total mark.

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

What is assessed:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data

How it is assessed:

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Total: 78 marks = 30% of GCSE

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

What is assessed:

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Use of data

How it is assessed:

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Total: 78 marks = 30% of GCSE

Practical performance in physical activity and sport

What is assessed:

- Students are assessed as a player/performer in **three** different activities plus
- Written/verbal analysis and evaluation of performance

How it's assessed:

- Internal assessment, external moderation
- Total: 100 marks = 40% of GCSE

The practical unit is assessed in both Upper Transits (Year 10) and Shell (year 11) as a continuous practical assessment. Pupils choose three practical sports to be assessed in over the course. These must include one individual sport and one team sport. The third assessment can be either an individual sport or a team sport.

Pupils need to be capable of taking part in a wide range of sporting activities at a good standard. As well as having enthusiasm and keenness to learn about all aspects of an activity is necessary. This could involve playing in a school team, umpiring games or organising teams, among other possibilities. **Pupils should also be taking part in one or more sports at a higher level, which should take place outside of school in a club.**

The Physical Education course overall could be an asset to anyone wanting a career in many sport related professions, the leisure industry or primary/secondary teaching.

Psychology

OCR J203

What makes people behave the way they do? Studying psychology will help you to understand some of the many different views and explanations which have been put forward to answer this question.

Studying psychology will enable you to develop both subject-specific and generic academic skills which will be useful across all of your subjects, including:

- The acquisition of knowledge and understanding of psychology, developing an understanding of self and others, and how psychological understanding can help to explain everyday social phenomena
- The presentation of information, development of arguments and conclusions through a critical approach to psychological evidence; development as reflective thinkers
- Understanding of how psychological research is conducted, including the role of scientific method and data analysis
- The development of an understanding of the relationship between psychology and personal, moral, social and cultural issues, and of an understanding of ethical issues in psychology
- The development of an understanding of psychological issues, the contribution of psychology to individual, social and cultural diversity, and how psychology contributes to society

Overview of specification:

Content overview	Assessment overview	
Criminal Psychology Development Psychological Problems Research Methods	Examined paper: Studies and applications in psychology 1 Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes	50% of total GCSE
Social influence Memory Sleep and dreaming Research methods	Examined paper: Studies and applications in psychology 2 Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes	50% of total GCSE
The brain and neuropsychology is a topic which is embedded throughout the topics listed above and which may be examined in either paper either in stand-alone questions or in the context of the topics above.		

Dr M Donald BA (Hons) PhD; MA Oxon BA (Hons) Oxon

Religious Studies

AQA Short Course RS GCSE

This course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Religious Studies in Years 7, 8 and 9 (Remove, Inters and Lower Transits). It is a part of the core curriculum which all students will follow and leads to a half GCSE. This is the same level of difficulty of a full GCSE but half the content.

Aims

- To acquire knowledge and develop understanding of the beliefs, values and traditions of Christianity and Islam
- To consider religious and non-religious responses to moral issues arising from studying the following themes:
Relationships and Families
Religion, Peace and Conflict

This course will cover a number of important issues and will give the pupils an opportunity to develop and express their views through discussion, debate and reasoned essay writing.

Religious Studies is assessed through one examination at the end of two years, which is 1 hour 45 minutes long.

Students will be able to progress on to the A Level Philosophy and Ethics Religious Studies course, having taken the short course GCSE.

Mrs C Crossley, BA Theology (Hons), PGCE
Postgraduate Diploma in Jewish-Christian Relations

Science

AQA

Biology
Chemistry
Physics

1. There are two different AQA courses at GCS Trilogy Science (leading to two GCSEs and covering elements from Physics, Chemistry and Biology)
2. A triple science option
Biology GCSE
Chemistry GCSE
Physics GCSE

GCSE begins in the lower transits (Year 9) and is taught as three separate subjects by subject specialists. In the Upper Transits (Year 10) pupils can choose to follow the triple or trilogy program. Practical work forms an integral part of the course and the sciences courses aim to develop strong experimental and investigative skills.

All courses prepare pupils for A Level sciences, but those knowing in advance that they would like to study them should choose the triple science option.

Mrs A Stacey BA (Hons), PGCE, MA

Textiles

Edexcel 1TE0

The GCSE Art and Design textiles course is entirely practical in content, involving no written examination. Pupils are assessed on two units of coursework, a personal portfolio completed throughout the two years in lesson time, and an externally set assignment, set by Edexcel, from a broad based thematic starting point. This will be taken over a supervised 10 hour period of sustained focus.

During the course, pupils will be introduced to a variety of dyeing and creative fabric techniques. They will experience the work of other textile artists at exhibitions to expand their creativeness and understanding of this subject. The focus of the course encourages research and development of ideas through a variety of creative processes and students need to research their subject from historical, cultural and contemporary perspectives.

Work can develop and evolve in either two or three dimensions and there are opportunities to produce surface and decorative fabric lengths appropriate for interiors, as well as for fashion garments and theatrical costumes. Textiles is a versatile practice that involves the creation, selection, manipulation and application of a range of materials such as fibers, yarns and fabrics. Textile designers work in a multi-disciplinary way to create ideas and they play an important role in the world of fashion, theatre, performance and retail.

Throughout the two years pupils are encouraged to develop a personal style involving research and exploration of ideas and to process these ideas into resolved textile pieces.

A number of trips to exhibitions are undertaken during the two years.

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Mrs S McCullagh HND OND

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Established in 1956 by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and opened to pupils in 1958, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a life-changing experience for participants. Based on Kurt Hahn's philosophy that young people possess an innate sense of morality and decency that should be cultivated, The Award encourages young people to partake in self-improvement through developing a skill, a passion for sport and by helping within their community. The Award is split into three stages: Bronze, Silver and Gold and each stage is gained by completing a personal programme of activities in four sections:

- Volunteering: undertaking service to individuals or the community
- Physical: improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities
- Skills: developing practical and social skills and personal interests
- Expedition: planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad (last year the pupils went to the Southern Chiltern Hill and the Lambourn Downs).

The timescales necessary for completing Bronze and Silver are below:

Bronze (Lower Transits (Year 9) upwards)

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
3 months	3 months	3 months	Plan, train for and undertake a 2 day, 1 night expedition.
All participants must undertake a further 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills sections.			

Silver (Upper Transits (Year 10) upwards)

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
6 months	One section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months.		Plan, train for and undertake a 3 day, 2 night expedition.
Direct entrants must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills section.			

When picking their activities, the pupils have a wide variety of options. It is highly likely that they are already participating in something that can be used for a section of their Award. Learning a musical instrument is always a popular choice for their Skills while playing in various sports teams within Wychwood can be used for Physical. There are also ample opportunities within school and the local community for the pupils to work on. For the expedition, we work with Adventure Plus an Approved Activities Provider with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. They provide training, instructors and camping equipment for the pupils.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is highly valued by university admissions' tutors and employers as it provides evidence of life skills. Beginning with Bronze, before working through Silver and Gold, pupils demonstrate a considerable level of dedication and commitment. It is an excellent addition to a personal statement. More than this though, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award provides you with many unforgettable experiences and opportunities for personal development.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Non-native speakers of English will likely need more time to review the work they do in their GCSE courses and to learn key subject vocabulary, so it is advisable to ensure that they have some 'free' periods in which to do so. Depending on their level of English going into year 10, these students may have a number of EAL lessons on their timetable and this will influence the number of GCSE subjects that they are able to fit in. These factors, along with the language demands of particular subjects, are taken into consideration when advice is given on GCSE options.

EAL lessons in year 10 are used in a variety of ways to suit the individual student. In general, they are designed to identify and fill any gaps in knowledge that prevent the student from accessing school-life fully. This might be by practising to increase confidence in speaking, building general or specific vocabulary, or teaching structures to gain higher marks in written expression. Students may follow an examination course such as Cambridge First Certificate or IELTS, as appropriate.

Students whose level of English is not sufficient to join the mainstream GCSE English class may be offered the opportunity to work towards IGCSE English as a Second Language instead.

Ms J Bettridge Cert. Ed., TESOL Cert.

The Latin GCSE course has been designed to help pupils develop their understanding of the Latin language and the related ancient literature, values and society.

There are three main elements to the course:

Language is a compulsory component and is worth 50% of the total GCSE. Pupils build their knowledge of vocabulary and linguistic structures as well as becoming familiar with core vocabulary and grammar.

The other 50% of the GCSE consists of optional components. Prose literature and verse literature make up four of these components, with pupils studying a set text or group of texts, totalling between 110 and 120 lines in length.

Literature and culture is also an optional component in which pupils study the prescribed ancient source material covering two themes of civilisation and culture. The study of these prescribed sources is supplemented with other ancient sources covering the same theme.

The course gives pupils the opportunity to develop linguistic skills which will help both in the study and application of English and other languages. They will gain an insight into the life and culture of the ancient world. They will also be encouraged to develop and apply critical analytical skills which will help them in their future studies in arts, humanities and sciences.

Above all, the aim of the course is to encourage pupils to develop a life-long enthusiasm for the classical world.

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