



ST. EDWARD'S COLLEGE

Key Stage Four Curriculum

2010 – 2012

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Introduction

Life in the Middle School is both demanding and hectic but it is also enjoyable and rewarding. During the next two years, you will work for GCSE achievement, which in turn, will affect future choices. It is important to realise that you will be working with, and not for, your subject teachers. It is expected that you have a serious approach to all your subjects and make every effort to get the most out of this next stage in your education.

Your progress over the next two years will be carefully monitored. Subject teachers, form teachers and your Head of Year will always be on hand to help you resolve any difficulties and give you encouragement and support. Most subjects run clubs to help you with your school work and also to give you assistance with your coursework.



G Orger
Head of Middle School

The Procedure

You will receive information during the presentation on Monday 1 February about the Key Stage Four Curriculum and how to make your choices. Your parents will receive similar information.

A Parent/Teacher Review meeting on Monday 22 February 2010 will enable you to discuss your academic progress and seek the advice of your teachers.

You will receive an options form after the Parent/Teacher Review meeting. Use this booklet and the information from the Parent/Teacher Review meeting to help you complete the form.

You will be required to return the completed options form to your form teacher by Monday 1 March 2010.

Key Stage Four Curriculum

During Key Stage Four, all pupils will follow a curriculum that is suited to their needs and interests. They will finish Year 11 equipped with a range of appropriate qualifications, skills and attributes to enable them to pursue their chosen path into further education or employment. The curriculum is divided into two parts, core curriculum and options, which are outlined below.

The Core Curriculum (compulsory for all pupils)

- English
- Mathematics
- Religious Education
- Science
- Physical Education (non-examination)
- Education for Personal Relationships
- Work Related Learning
- Citizenship

Option Choices

In addition to the subjects in the Core Curriculum, pupils can select from the range of courses outlined below:

GCSE Courses	OCR National Courses
Art and Design	ICT
Design and Technology (Resistant Materials)	
Design and Technology (Textiles)	
Drama	
French	
Geography	
German	
History	
Music	
Physical Education	
Spanish	

Pathways

The Pathways Curriculum allows for greater flexibility to ensure the personal learning needs of each individual pupil can be met. Pupils will be advised, in consultation with parents, to follow a particular pathway at Key Stage Four and the pathway they pursue will determine the nature of their core curriculum, the number of option choices they make and the range of courses from which they choose. Pupils will follow either Pathway A or Pathway B.

Pathway A

Most pupils will follow Pathway A and take nine GCSEs. They will sit their Religious Education GCSE at the end of Year 10 and will complete a general Religious Education programme for one period per week in Year 11. All pupils will take Science modules during Year 10. In addition, some pupils will follow an accelerated curriculum in Mathematics and/or Music, sitting the examinations before the end of Year 11.

Pupils who do not choose to study GCSE Physical Education as one of their three choices have the option of studying a GCSE Short Course in Physical Education. The short course is 50% of a full GCSE course and is graded in the same way. Pupils who choose to do so will study the short course during general PE lessons (two per week).

The table below indicates lessons per week for each subject taken on Pathway A and the number of GCSEs that pupils can achieve.

Subject	Number of GCSEs	Year 10 PPW *	Year 11 PPW *
English and English Literature	2	5	5
Mathematics	1	5	4
Science and Additional Science	2	6	9
Religious Education	1	3	1
3 Options (from French, German, Spanish, History, Geography, Music, Drama, PE, Art, DT Resistant Materials and DT Textiles)	3	9	9
General Physical Education (with option for GCSE short course)	0(½)	2	2
Total	9 (½)	30	30

* Periods per week

Pathway B

Some pupils will follow Pathway B and take five GCSEs alongside a number of other qualifications. Pupils will study GCSE RE over both years, taking the first module at the end of Year 10 and the second at the end of Year 11. In addition, pupils will study for one GCSE in English and Science and will be taught Science as a single subject rather than separately as Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Pupils will opt for one GCSE course and will also study for an OCR National in ICT. All pupils will continue to study a Modern Foreign Language and will have the option of studying GCSE Physical Education short course through their general PE lessons.

The table below indicates lessons per week for each subject taken on Pathway B and the number of qualifications that pupils can achieve.

Subject	Number of GCSEs	Year 10 PPW *	Year 11 PPW *
English	1	5	5
Mathematics	1	5	5
Science	1	5	5
Religious Education	1	3	3
General Physical Education (with option for GCSE short course)	0 (½)	2	2
Option One (from History, Geography, Music, Drama, PE, Art, DT RM and DT Textiles)	1	3	3
OCR National Certificate in ICT	Up to 4 A*-C equivalent	6	6
MFL	1 entry level qualification	1	1
Total	5 (½) (+ 4 A*-C equivalent)	30	30

* Periods per week

Grades and Certification

GCSE

Certificates are presented upon successful completion of the course that indicates the grade a candidate has been awarded. Grades range from A* - G with A* being awarded to candidates who have achieved outstandingly high standards of performance. There are two tiers of entry for some subjects and pupils are entered according to their ability, as determined by their subject teachers using information gathered throughout their time in Key Stages Three and Four.

- Pupils entered for the Higher Tier can achieve Grade A*-D at GCSE.
- Pupils entered for the Foundation Tier can achieve Grade C-G at GCSE.

Pupils are required to achieve at least 4 B grades at GCSE for entry into St Edward's College sixth form and grades A*-C (including English and Mathematics) are required for entry into Higher Education and for many types of employment.

All GCSEs graded G or above are deemed a pass. Grades D-G are a Level One Qualification and A*-C are a Level Two Qualification.

OCR National Grades

Assessment in the OCR National Certificate is entirely coursework / project based; there are no examinations. All coursework is internally assessed and externally moderated. Pupils are awarded pass, merit or distinction for each individual unit and overall. Successful completion of the qualification is worth the equivalent of up to 4 A*-C passes at GCSE.

Non Examination Courses

Education for Personal Relationships (EPR)

EPR is delivered to pupils during morning registration and in sessions throughout the school year when the normal timetable is suspended. In Key Stage Four, pupils will cover the following topics:

- Personal Identity and Risk
- Developing good relations and respecting others
- Healthy Lifestyle / Sex Education
- Diversity
- Careers / Making Choices – options post 16
- Interview Skills / Curriculum Vitae
- Study Skills
- Financial Capabilities

Work Related Learning

These are planned activities to use the context of work to develop knowledge and skills. The College provides this to pupils in Key Stage Four in three different ways through morning registration and sessions organised throughout the school year when the normal timetable is suspended.

- Learn through work – work experience opportunity
- Learn about work – enterprise days, careers advice and visits from professionals
- Learn for work – enterprise days, presentational skills and interviews

Citizenship

Citizenship gives pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding to play an effective role in society at local, national and international levels. It helps them to become informed, thoughtful citizens who are aware of their duties and rights. The topics pupils will cover in Key Stage Four during morning registration periods are:

- Human Rights
- The Justice System
- How and why are laws made
- Parliament, Government and the Courts
- Democratic and Electoral processes
- The Economy
- The Media

- Policies and Practices for sustainable development and impact on the environment
- Consumer Rights and Responsibilities
- The origins and implications of diversity and the changing nature of society in the UK
- Challenging racism and discrimination and responsibilities in the world of work
- The UK's role in the world, including Europe, the Commonwealth and the United Nations
- Global issues, local action

Examination Courses

Methods of Assessment

Modular tests

These are examinations that take place during the course, once a unit of study has been completed. They contribute towards the final GCSE grade and opportunities exist to resit individual module tests if necessary.

Terminal examinations

These are examinations that take place at the end of the course in Year 11 and they contribute towards the final GCSE grade. For those pupils following Pathway A, they will sit these examinations in Religious Education at the end of Year 10.

Controlled assessment

Controlled assessment is replacing coursework in some subjects and will involve pupils completing tasks in two stages. After being set a question or task by their teacher, the first stage will be to research / gather information which will take place in the pupil's own time. The second stage will involve pupils writing up and will take place in school under controlled conditions, with limited help and guidance from teachers.

Coursework

For subjects where coursework remains, pupils will research and complete written tasks set by their teacher. The work is completed in lesson time or at home according to the direction of the subject teacher and must be handed in at stipulated times. It is essential that deadlines are met. Coursework assignments form an integral part of assessment for OCR National courses.

The topics for controlled assessments and coursework are set by subject teachers within the framework of the specification. The benefits of controlled assessments and coursework are that marks can be achieved in advance of the examination so success is not dependent upon examination performance alone. A wide range of skills can be demonstrated without the constraints of working against the clock. If controlled assessments and coursework are going to enhance your chances of success you must ensure that the work is well researched, correctly presented and represents the highest standard of which you are capable. Leaving research and preparation to the last minute is not acceptable. You will be given guidance on completing coursework and controlled assessment; ensure that you make good use of all the help which will be made available to you.

For a summary of the methods of assessment for each subject, please refer to the relevant subject information page.

Academic Expectations

Embarking on Key Stage Four courses require commitment and dedication from you, whether you pursue Pathway A or B. The satisfaction you will enjoy and the pleasure you will bring to your family and teachers as a consequence of achieving well will more than compensate for the efforts you need to make.

You need to take an active part in your own learning. Pay keen attention in lessons. Prepare work which reflects diligent application and be prepared to ask for help if you do not understand a topic.

If you have planned absence, prepare and hand in work ahead of that absence or, if this is not possible, immediately on your return. Ensure that any missed work is copied up.

A business-like attitude will help you succeed and avoid the unpleasant situation of feeling overburdened and unable to cope.

The courses you undertake will enable you to develop academically and you should seize these opportunities for success.

The College will pay the entry fees for a public examination for a pupil whom the College has prepared for that examination, except in the case of an examination resit where the cost must be met in full by the parents. The College, however, will not pay the examination fees for pupils whose attendance falls below 95 per cent, except in extenuating circumstances.

The homework guidelines for Key Stage Four are that pupils should spend 12 hours per week on work outside school hours (approximately 1½ hours per subject).

It's Your Choice

Gather the facts

- Find out about each subject from this Booklet and by asking members of the teaching staff
- Think about the nature of the course and consider the proportion of coursework involved
- Consider your strengths and weaknesses
- Consider what you may like to study in Upper School

Consider the issues

- Will you enjoy the course?
- Is it likely to lead to examination success?
- Discuss your ideas with your family and teachers
- It is very difficult to change subjects in Year 10

Choose because:

- You have a good understanding of what the subject involves and feel confident that you can work with interest and enthusiasm
- The subject complements or contrasts with your other subjects
- Your teachers believe you have the ability to succeed in the subject
- The balance of coursework and examinations suits your disposition and you are determined to succeed

DO NOT choose because:

- Your friends have made that choice
- The subject sounds easy
- You like the teacher
- You cannot think of anything else!

Now make your choice!

Remember, it is your future, so plan carefully and work hard!

Core Subjects

The following pages provide information about subjects in the core curriculum which are **compulsory** for all pupils at Key Stage Four.

These include:

English

English Literature

Mathematics

Religious Education

Science and Additional Science

English and English Literature

A good grade in English at GCSE is an entry Level qualification for almost all courses and careers. Every person should be a proficient user of their own language and English gives a person access to the rich literary heritage created by those who have spoken English throughout history.

What does the Course involve?

The course marks a real progression from Key Stage Three English. It involves the study of both old and modern texts. It involves more Shakespeare, but also texts written since 1914. The course involves pupils refining their own writing and reading skills. There is a strand of the course which gives pupils the opportunity to speak and listen in a variety of styles.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop the ability to analyse texts and to write about them. You will learn how to speak and listen effectively and how to write for a specific audience and purpose.

How will I learn?

You will learn in a variety of styles. Often this will involve whole class teaching. Sometimes small groups will be given a task to perform. At other times you will be asked to work independently on coursework tasks.

How will I be assessed?

- Examining Body is the WJEC
- Two English examination papers
- One English Literature examination paper
- One folder composed of six pieces of coursework. Unlike in previous years, the coursework will be “controlled” – that is to say produced under examination conditions.

What could a qualification lead to?

This is excellent preparation for Sixth Form work, particularly if you want to go on to study A Level English Language or A Level English Literature.

*Pupils who follow Pathway B will **only** complete the English GCSE course.*

Pupil comments:

“I enjoyed English because it is varied. The texts we read were interesting and I enjoyed the Drama and the Speaking and Listening activities.”

Mathematics

Mathematics is a Core subject at GCSE.

What does the Course involve?

Pupils follow Edexcel Linear GCSE (specification A). All pupils will follow the syllabus for the Higher tier of GCSE and work will cover the four attainment targets in Mathematics:

- 1 Mathematical Processes and Applications
- 2 Number and Algebra
- 3 Geometry and Measures
- 4 Handling Data

What skills will I develop?

You will develop problem-solving skills and also the ability to approach problems systematically and analytically.

How will I learn?

Pupils will have five lessons each week in Year 10 and four lessons in Year 11. One homework will be set per week.

Pupils are set at the start of Year 10 to ensure that they are placed in the correct set for GCSE. Setting takes place based primarily on internal examinations results and the professional judgement of teachers. Other factors may be taken into account in individual cases. (Setting is monitored throughout the year to ensure that each pupil is working at the appropriate level and pace). Setting continues into Year 11.

Teaching will broadly follow the pattern: sets 1 and 2 taught up to grade A*, sets 3 and 4 taught up to grade A, sets 5 and 6 taught up to grade B.

Most pupils will be entered for the Higher tier of GCSE with some pupils being entered for the Foundation tier if appropriate.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Non-Calculator paper (duration 1 hour 45 minutes)

Paper 2: Calculator Allowed paper (duration 1 hour 45 minutes)

There is no coursework component in Mathematics GCSE.

What could a qualification lead to?

A few possible career opportunities are: Accountant, Archaeologist, Architect, Barrister, Business Analyst, Computer Games Developer, Defence Analyst, Doctor, Engineer, Forensic Scientist, Meteorologist, Research and Development, Statistician, Teacher.

Pupil comments:

“Mathematics GCSE covers and extends most topics learnt at Key Stage Three. If you apply hard work and determination, it is enjoyable and reasonably straight forward. As well as classroom based learning there are also many interactive sessions in the ICT room.”

“Mathematics develops learning and stimulates the mind, it will teach you to think logically and solve problems. Mathematics GCSE is a crucial qualification and the skills you learn are vital for many jobs after you leave school.”

Religious Education

Religious Education deals with the core questions of human life and encourages pupils to understand and appreciate the value of faith and evaluate moral positions in an analytical manner. Some of the fascinating questions you will be dealing with are:

Is the Bible still relevant in the modern world?

Is it ever justified to kill another human being?

Why do people discriminate against others?

What does the Course involve?

At GCSE there is a study of St. Mark's Gospel and the Sacraments and how they relate to everyday life. You will also deal with some controversial moral dilemmas. For most pupils, the examination is taken at the end of Year 10 and they will have one GCSE already completed when they return to Year 11.

What skills will I develop?

The skills that you will develop include being able to analyse critically complex moral arguments, reading and note taking, essay writing and presentation, evaluating the nature of human existence and thinking about what motivates people. The key skill that Religious Education encourages is that of thinking for yourself and being able to make your own decisions about what you think about the world that you live in.

How will I learn?

You will learn through a variety of activities which include reading, discussion, group work and essay writing guided by the teacher. There is also a strong emphasis on independent learning.

How will I be assessed?

The examination board is AQA. Both papers are 1 hour 30 minutes long.

Paper 1: St Mark's Gospel – this requires knowledge of the passages in the gospel, understanding of the meaning they have and evaluating their relevance in the world today.

Paper 2: Roman Catholicism: Ethics – this explores the purpose and symbolism of the Sacraments in the Catholic Church and discussion of complex moral problems such as abortion, war and euthanasia.

What could a qualification lead to?

Religious Education is both a practically useful subject and one which encourages you to examine and develop your ideas about what life is all about. Practically, Religious Education leads to a range of career opportunities, mainly people orientated – all employers accept the GCSE in Religious Education as a qualification – the police, retail organisations and the civil service to mention a few. It also provides a good basis for medicine and law and for pupils studying Arts degrees.

Pupils who follow Pathway B will continue to study the GCSE course during Year 11.

Pupil comments:

“I enjoyed learning about things that are different and asking questions about why we do things and the way our society and communities are. Also, I liked the debating aspect which allowed me to question what is moral and think about whether certain things can be justified.”

Science and Additional Science

The course will enable you to study elements of Physics, Chemistry and Biology with emphasis on how Science works.

What does the Course involve?

The course involves the study of Physics, Chemistry and Biology through various learning activities. Importance is attached to the knowledge, skills and understanding of how Science works in the world at large as well as in the laboratory. This is set in the context of knowing and understanding a body of scientific facts.

What skills will I develop?

GCSE Science will develop skills in applying scientific knowledge, evaluating evidence, understanding the implication of Science for Society and practical investigation skills. In Year 11 the emphasis will be on developing skills in explaining, theorising and modelling in Science.

How will I learn?

A variety of learning activities, including practical investigations, scientific modelling, use of ICT software, simulations, practical experiments, demonstrations, problem solving and analytical work, will encourage pupils in their learning.

How will I be assessed?

Year 10: GCSE Science

- six module examinations each worth 12.5%
- one piece of controlled assessment in College worth 25%

Year 11: Additional Science

- three examination papers each worth 25%
- one piece of controlled assessment in College worth 25%

What could a qualification lead to?

Increasingly, a Grade C in GCSE Science along with English and Mathematics is a minimum requirement for entrance to some degree courses at university.

Those interested in Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy and Veterinary Science will need Chemistry at A Level, and usually at least one other Science at A Level (requirements will vary according to institution and are constantly changing). Careers in which good qualifications in Biology and Physics are preferred include Midwifery and Aviation respectively. A good GCSE pass in Science is a platform for A Level Sciences and a wide range of careers including Engineering, Medicine and Research.

*Pupils who follow Pathway B will **only** complete the Science GCSE course.*

Pupil comments:

"I have found the Physics interesting and challenging and I have really enjoyed the Chemistry practicals which have helped my understanding. In Biology the topics have been stimulating and relevant, especially the topics on cells, tissues and organs."

Option Subjects

CONTENTS

The following pages provide information about option subjects for all pupils at Key Stage Four.

These include:

Art and Design (GCSE)

Design and Technology Resistant Materials (GCSE)

Design and Technology Textiles (GCSE)

Drama (GCSE)

French (GCSE)

Geography (GCSE)

German (GCSE)

History (GCSE)

ICT (OCR National)

Music (GCSE)

Physical Education (Full and Short Course GCSE)

Spanish (GCSE)

Art and Design

Why should I choose it?

Have you really enjoyed your Key Stage Three work and are proud of your achievements so far? Would you like to expand your knowledge and understanding of materials, processes and artists whilst realising your ideas in a finished artefact of a high standard? Would you like to have your own exhibition and achieve a good grade as all other pupils have done over many years? If the answer to these questions is 'yes', then this subject is for you!

What does the Course involve?

The course involves a minimum of one complete project embracing the techniques of 3-Dimensional Design, Printmaking, Drawing and Painting in addition to an Externally Set Task. A sketchbook will provide the evidence of your research and all the stages from your initial ideas to your final piece, in just the same way that you worked at Key Stage Three.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop your drawing skills and your creative responses in a challenging, rewarding and enjoyable way. Creativity, analysis, problem solving and independent research are all qualities required for any young person and Art and Design is a subject that promotes all these qualities.

How will I learn?

Under the direction of the Art teachers, you will visit local galleries and use ICT to gather visual and written information in your sketchbook. Your teachers will keep you focussed with advice and personal monitoring and they will give you demonstrations and support so that you will learn in a vibrant and caring environment.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by your teachers after completing your project(s) which will become your Portfolio (previously called Coursework) and an examination which you prepare over a four week period. The Portfolio provides 60% of your marks and the examination provides the other 40%.

What could a qualification lead to?

Whilst being primarily Fine Art, a qualification in this field complements many other subjects and is, for example, encouraged when applying for Dentistry. It can also lead you into Architecture, Photography, Product Design, Curating, Conservation, Stage Lighting, Set Design, Fashion, Interior and Graphic Design.

Pupil comment:

"I am enjoying GCSE Art and Design. Our work is looking like the work on the walls that we used to look at in Year 7 and wonder how it was done. I love drawing in a bigger sketchbook and I have some good work for my exhibition. I have kept up with the work and so I don't find it at all difficult."

Design and Technology (Resistant Materials)

Why should I choose it?

Resistant Materials is a subject that will naturally extend your design technology capability from Key Stage Three in a way that you will find challenging, rewarding and enjoyable. You will develop creativity, ingenuity, innovation, problem solving skills and independence. These are all qualities required by any young person planning for a successful future, no matter what your choice of occupation.

What does the course involve?

You will build on those skills learned at Key Stage Three, expanding your knowledge and understanding of materials, processes and manufacturing techniques, all the while honing your design skills and your ability to produce a successful and attainable design brief. These will be taught through both theoretical and practical examples. The coursework in Resistant Materials counts for 60% of your final GCSE grade and its completion to a high standard increases the likelihood of achieving a good GCSE grade. The project consists of a concise design portfolio and the making of a quality product. The actual product depends upon your ingenuity, creativity and practical skills, but it must be in response to a central theme set by the examining board. In recent years pupils have enjoyed making educational toys, unique CD/DVD Storage Units and FM radios. If you can respond to the instruction of your teacher and work consistently well over a period of time you can sit the examination in the secure knowledge that you have already completed an outstanding piece of coursework.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop practical skills in manufacturing; bench work using a variety of tools, machine work ensuring that you fully understand the use of the lathe and CNC equipment. Your existing knowledge of materials, processes and manufacturing systems, together with your ability to propose design solutions for successful outcomes, will all be expanded upon.

How will I learn?

Pupils learn in a similar way to Key Stage Three. You will be taught the necessary theory and practical skills to achieve successful outcomes. You will spend a lot of time in the workshop and IT room, supported by your teacher and the technician, operating machinery and designing, manufacturing and analysing your coursework.

How will I be assessed?

Coursework Project – final piece and portfolio (60% of final mark)

Examination – testing (i) your knowledge of materials, processes and manufacturing and (ii) your ability to propose design solutions within a given theme (40% of final mark)

What could a qualification lead to?

Resistant Materials is a qualification that could lead you towards any one of the following careers: Architecture, Surveying (Building and Quantity), Engineering (Civil and Mechanical), Construction, Estates Management and various design related careers.

Pupil comment:

“I have thoroughly enjoyed studying Resistant Materials at GSCE. It has allowed me to use machinery that I would never have otherwise come across and enabled me to produce a working Radio/Desk Tidy for my bedroom. However, the course contains much independent study which you have to keep on top of if you wish to remain up to date.”

Design and Technology (Textiles)

Why should I choose it?

Textiles is a subject that will naturally extend your design technology capability from Key Stage Three in a way that you will find challenging, rewarding and enjoyable. You will develop creativity, ingenuity, innovation, problem solving skills and independence. These are all qualities required by any young person planning for a successful future, no matter what your choice of occupation.

What does the course involve?

You will build on those skills learned at Key Stage Three, expanding your knowledge and understanding of materials, processes and manufacturing techniques, all the while honing your design skills and your ability to produce a successful and attainable design brief. These will be taught through both theoretical and practical examples. The coursework in Resistant Materials counts for 60% of your final GCSE grade and its completion to a high standard increases the likelihood of achieving a good GCSE grade. The project consists of a concise design portfolio and the making of a quality product. The actual product depends upon your ingenuity, creativity and practical skills, but it must be in response to a central theme set by the examining board. In recent years pupils have enjoyed making educational toys, decorative wall hanging and fashion items of clothing and soft furnishings. If you can respond to the instruction of your teacher and work consistently well over a period of time you can sit the examination in the secure knowledge that you have already completed an outstanding piece of coursework.

What skills will I develop?

You will improve on skills already partly developed at Key Stage Three, expanding your knowledge and understanding of textile materials, components, processes and techniques, along with the evaluation of textile products and commercial practices which will also be tested.

How will I learn?

Pupils learn in a similar way to Key Stage Three. You will be taught the necessary theory and practical skills to achieve successful outcomes. This way you will ensure that you are fully confident before you undertake any level of practical on the machinery or equipment within the department.

How will I be assessed?

Coursework Project – final piece and portfolio (60% of final mark)

Examination – testing (i) your knowledge of materials, processes and manufacturing and (ii) your ability to propose design solutions within a given theme (40% of final mark)

What could a qualification in lead to?

Textiles Technology is a qualification that could lead you into any one of the following careers: Printed Textiles (designing for fabrics, wall papers), Fashion, Constructed Textiles (designing carpets, knitwear), Retail (buying, merchandise display, styling), Film and Television (wardrobe design and continuity) and Interiors.

Pupil comments:

“Completing a GCSE in Textiles has really developed my desire to work in the fashion industry. We have looked at a wide range of fashion items and techniques over the two year course. My final project enabled me to design and manufacture a fashion item of my choice which worked out really well. I really enjoyed the independent study that was required for the completion of the portfolio and practical and felt a real sense of achievement when it was all completed.”

Drama

Why should I choose it?

It is an enjoyable subject which is creative and helps you to co-operate with your peers. It is also helpful in building self-confidence.

What does the Course involve?

Drama GCSE involves two group acting pieces – one devised and one scripted. Two accompanying essays are also required. A Drama diary must be kept, charting the creative process. A written examination studying two plays from a performance perspective is taken. Additionally, candidates are asked to write a review of a production they have watched during the course.

What skills will I develop?

Skills developed during the course are vocal projection, self-confidence, teamwork, creativity, problem-solving and performance skills.

How will I learn?

You will learn through games, acting classes, skill-building lessons and working collaboratively and creatively in a small group. You will also read plays, analyse them from a performance perspective and attend the theatre.

How will I be assessed?

- Coursework – two 20 minute acting pieces to be performed in groups of no less than four
- Two assessed essays
- One examination (1 hour 30 minutes)

What could a qualification lead to?

A qualification in Drama offers a broad platform for further study in the Arts and has a wide careers application. Because it builds confidence in performance and presentation, a qualification in Drama can help in those occupations that focus on working in teams, using argument and persuasion and interacting with people such as the performing art industry, sales, marketing, teaching and the media.

Pupil comments:

“It’s a fun subject. I have really enjoyed it and I have gained a lot of confidence.”

French

Why should I choose it?

Learning French at GCSE will enable you to build on what you have learnt at Key Stage Three and extend it further. You have already completed three fifths of the course since all you have learnt in Years Seven, Eight and Nine will be essential to help you succeed at GCSE. With an ever increasing global economy, language skills are attractive to employers and can improve your career prospects as more and more companies are looking to recruit people who can speak a second language.

What does the Course involve?

The GCSE course is based on developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in the context of the following topic areas: Lifestyle, Leisure, Home and Environment, Work and Education.

What skills will I develop?

As well as developing the language skills you have been taught at GCSE you will develop communication skills which are essential in the workplace and in daily life. Foreign language study can also help to improve problem solving skills, memory and self-discipline.

How will I learn?

GCSE lessons allow pupils to develop their skills in a stimulating and challenging environment. All four skills will be practised and extended. Extra support is available once a week at Key Stage Four French Club. ICT software is used regularly during lessons and pupils are encouraged to learn independently of the teacher. Regular homework will support that learning.

How will I be assessed?

- Listening Paper (20%)
- Reading Paper (20%)
- Speaking Test (30%)
- Controlled Writing Assessment – two essays (30%)

What could a qualification lead to?

A good GCSE pass in French will allow you to continue to A Level. This course forms the foundations of A Level. With a reduction in the number of English people who can speak a foreign language you will be more attractive to companies than your counterparts. At University level, French can be combined with many subjects to form a degree course; for example, Law with French, Chemistry with French; in fact, most subjects can be combined to suit your strengths.

Pupil comments:

"I really understand French grammar now and it's easy!"

"I can speak well now on lots of topics and my confidence has increased with it."

"The French exchange was great; I learnt so much about the differences and similarities between us".

Geography

Why should I choose it?

Geography aims to provide you with an understanding of the processes that shape the physical, economic and social aspects of the world in which you live. The world is seemingly chaotic at global, national and local scales and the geographer attempts to look for a sense of order in both physical and human Geography. If you are curious about the world in which you live, you will enjoy the subject.

What does the Course involve?

The course is mainly designed around the study of physical and human Geography, covering topics as diverse as river landscapes, glaciation, population and Ordnance Survey map work. You will sit two papers and complete one piece of coursework. There will be fieldwork excursions to collect data and the location will be determined by the AQA examination board.

What skills will I develop?

Geography is unusual in that it develops both literacy and numeracy skills. Pupils will develop skills related to the interpretation of Ordnance Survey maps and description and explanation of physical landforms and human geography. In addition, controlled assessments will demand skills of data collection, recording, presentation and analysis.

How will I learn?

Class based work will provide the basis for learning through questions based on maps, diagrams and photographs with emphasis on a combination of short and longer written answers. Given the nature of the subject, a great amount of teaching and learning will involve the use of the interactive whiteboard to provide visual stimulus and encourage pupil participation. Some learning will take place outside school when on fieldwork.

How will I be assessed?

- Two examination papers:
 - 1) Physical Geography (one hour 30 minutes) worth 37.5%
 - 2) Human Geography (one hour 30 minutes) worth 37.5%
- Coursework based on fieldwork worth 25%. The coursework will be completed in the classroom environment, under direct supervision, some of which will be completed as a controlled assessment.

What could a qualification lead to?

A qualification in Geography can lead to a variety of occupations, the most common of which are Business, Finance, Cartographer, Landscape Architect, Meteorologist, Travel Consultant, Vulcanologist and Town Planner.

Pupil comments:

"I have enjoyed GCSE Geography and especially like to put into practice what we have learned in class when we go on a field trip."

"It is enjoyable because it is varied and it is the only subject that helped me to explain the world in which I live"

German

Why should I choose it?

Learning another language opens up new opportunities and gives you perspectives that you might not have encountered otherwise. German-speaking countries not only form the biggest language zone in Europe but also have the greatest market share. Seven of the top ten companies in Europe are German. Although pupils in Year Nine have only been studying German since September, smaller Year 10 and Year 11 class sizes mean that pupils are able to progress very quickly.

What does the Course involve?

The GCSE course, like French and Spanish, is based on developing listening, reading, speaking and writing skills in the context of the following topic areas: Lifestyle, Leisure, Home and Environment and Work and Education.

What skills will I develop?

As well as developing the language skills you have been taught at Key Stage Three, you will develop important communication skills which are vital for the work place or just in daily life. By exploring the similarities and differences between the foreign language and English you can learn how language can be manipulated and applied in different ways.

How will I learn?

GCSE German lessons allow pupils to extend their speaking, reading, listening and writing skills in a stimulating and challenging environment. Extra support is available within the Department once a week through German Club. Interactive ICT activities play an integral role in German GCSE classes.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 Listening test at the end of Year 11 (20%)

Unit 2 Reading test at the end of Year 11 (20%)

Unit 3 Speaking test – internally assessed (30%)

Unit 4 Writing – two tasks externally assessed (30%)

What could a qualification lead to?

Any GCSE language course helps you to develop transferable skills which you will find invaluable when you get your first job. Since the advent of the European Union, the international business community increasingly requires an understanding of German to capitalize on multinational opportunities. For those interested in a career in IT or science, it is useful to know that German is the second most used language on the internet as well as in scientific research – a good accompaniment to Chemistry and Physics.

Pupil comments:

“The pace of German lessons is quite fast as a lot of material for GCSE is new but I enjoy the challenge and I find that the language and grammar are quite similar to English.”

History

Why should I choose it?

Do you: Want to find out what makes people tick?
 Want to find out what motivates people?
 Want to see what part luck plays in big events?
 Want to learn how to argue well?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then, without hesitation, you should choose History GCSE. Apart from being very interesting, studying the past may just brighten your future!

What does the Course involve?

In Paper One, you will study International Relations in the Twentieth Century. Paper Two is an in-depth look at some important events during the Twentieth Century. You will get to look at the effect of World War One on Germany and examine the reasons why someone like Hitler was able to come to power in 1933.

The course will involve reading all about these events, role playing to capture the mood of the time and writing it all down in clear, logical arguments.

What skills will I develop?

As already hinted at, you will learn how to communicate clearly and express yourself verbally on paper. You will learn how to gather information and check it for bias or propaganda; you will read maps, graphs and other diagrams; you will learn to produce balanced arguments. Finally, you will gain a greater understanding of the past which will certainly help to make sense of the present.

How will I learn?

You will learn through a variety of activities, including group work, paired work, role play and presentations, with independent learning playing a major part. You will read extracts from books and sources from the time. There may even be a visit to see history up close and personal.

How will I be assessed?

- Paper One: Conflict and Peace in the 20th Century (1 hour 45 minutes)
- Paper Two: 20th Century depth studies (1 hour 45 minutes)
- Controlled assessment focussing on an aspect of British History in the 20th Century; for example, 'Britain at War' or the 'Changing Role and Status of Women'. This piece of work will account for 25% of your overall mark.

What could a qualification lead to?

Employers who see you have a qualification in History will know certain things about you; you can express yourself, gather information, check facts and arguments and that you are fairly knowledgeable. Employers and universities like to see that you followed a balanced course at school. It is a good qualification for budding journalists, accountants, TV researchers, librarians, teachers, solicitors, lawyers, judges and many more.

Pupil comments:

'If you want something interesting, thought provoking and fun, then GCSE History is your number one!

From Versailles to Cuba and Hitler to Ike

Looking at Kings, Queens, Presidents and the like,

If you want a GCSE where you'll have a blast

Choose the subject that lets you examine the past!'

"History is a great subject to learn. It gives you a huge array of skills that you can also use in other subjects. It lets you know why things are the way they are and why people do the things they do. History is taught in a fun way and you learn something new every lesson."

ICT (OCR National)

Why should I choose it?

Computers are everywhere. They are used in all sorts of industry, including construction, hospitals, government, aviation, police, retail outlets and sport. They also perform an important role within the home. Whatever area in which you wish to develop your career, you can guarantee that having high level skills in the use of computers will improve your job prospects and opportunities to develop.

What does the Course involve?

The OCR National Certificate is made up of six separate units. It is compulsory to study **ICT Skills for Business**; this mandatory unit, covering essential skills for the modern workplace, such as organisation and file management, downloading from the internet, sending and receiving emails, using spreadsheets, and database management. In addition, you will study a further five units:

- 1 Webpage creation
- 2 Design and produce multimedia products
- 3 Desktop publishing
- 4 E-Commerce
- 5 Creating Sound Using ICT
- 6 Creating Computer Graphics

What skills will I develop?

You will become very competent at using a number of different computer applications to perform a range of tasks. In addition, you will develop important personal, learning and thinking skills, including time management, working within a team, prioritising tasks and reflecting on work you have completed in order to make improvements.

How will I learn?

The majority of learning will take place in an ICT room and you will spend a lot of time working independently through tasks on the computer. The environment in which you work will, to a certain extent, simulate the workplace and an office environment – you will be expected to work hard to meet deadlines within your lessons.

How will I be assessed?

All units are internally assessed by your teacher and then externally moderated by an OCR Visiting Moderator. There are no external tests or exams. Instead, you will complete assignments that are spread throughout the course. You will be awarded pass, merit or distinction for each individual unit as well as for the certificate overall.

What could a qualification lead to?

This qualification makes you very employable in a range of different professions and workplaces as successful completion of the course demonstrates to employers that you are well organised, are able to work under pressure and have good ICT skills. Completing this qualification will also enable you to undertake a Level Three course in ICT and go on to study an ICT related degree such as computer programming, web design or business information systems at university.

Music

Why should I choose it?

If you have good performing skills as a singer or instrumentalist and have a general interest in many types of Music, this course could be for you.

What does the Course involve?

There are three main elements:

- Listening
- Performing
- Composing

What skills will I develop?

You will develop the confidence and ability to perform in public and on CD and learn new techniques to enable you to compose a piece in a particular genre. Your analytical skills, pertinent to many musical styles, will also be enhanced.

How will I learn?

By practising and rehearsing different types of Music, composing two pieces and listening to a wide range of musical styles.

How will I be assessed?

- Listening: examination at the end of Year 11 based on a variety of topics, including Dance Music, Pop Ballads, Music for Ensemble and Film Music (worth 25%)
- Performance: two pieces to be performed, one solo and one ensemble piece (worth 30%)
- Composition: two pieces of coursework and a creative task (worth 45%)

What could a qualification lead to?

The opportunity to study Music at AS and A2 which, in turn, can lead to careers as performer, teacher, lecturer, composer and journalist.

Pupil comments:

“For pupils looking to develop their knowledge of different types of Music, improve composing skills and simply enjoy playing an instrument, this is the best GCSE course for you.”

Physical Education

Why should I choose it?

- Have you enjoyed PE at Key Stage Three?
- Do you have good practical ability in a number of sports?

If the answer to these questions is 'yes', then this is the subject for you!

- How does training affect the cardiovascular system?
- How are levels of performance improved by fitness training?
- What are the detrimental effects of drug taking in sport?
- How does media coverage affect sport?
- What is the role of the UK Sport?

The answers to all of these questions and many more will be considered during the GCSE PE course.

What does the Course involve?

The course involves a large practical element – 60%.

The theory element of the course includes:

- Health, fitness and factors affecting performance
- Principles of training
- Social and cultural factors affecting participation

What skills will I develop?

You will enhance your technical and tactical ability in a number of activities. Observation and analysis, problem solving and independent research are all skills which will be improved and developed.

How will I learn?

Your teachers will give you guidance and keep you focussed on the task in hand with advice and monitoring. Independent learning and research will also play a part on the course. Your knowledge of rules and regulations will be enhanced, as will your ability to analyse and improve your own and others' performance.

How will I be assessed?

- Written examination of one hour and 30 minutes in length (worth 40%)
- Practical assessment in four activities, including two as player/performer and two as organiser, leader/coach, choreographer or official (worth 60%)

What could a qualification lead to?

GCSE Physical Education could lead to careers in Sports Science, Sports Business, Teaching and Coaching, Outdoor Instructor and Recreational Management.

Pupils who opt for the GCSE Physical Education short course will cover similar course content to those who complete the full course. In terms of assessment, pupils will complete a 45 minute written examination (worth 40%) and practical assessments in two activities, including one as player/performer and one as organiser, leader/coach, choreographer or official (worth 60%).

Pupil comments:

"I am really enjoying GCSE Physical Education because I am able to expand my understanding in an area in which I'm really interested. I'm also learning a lot of the time in a practical environment."

Spanish

Why should I choose it?

Studying a language at GCSE may improve the choices you make for the rest of your life! It is a multicultural world and companies are increasingly aware of the advantages of recruiting people with language skills. According to recent estimates, almost 430 million people in the world speak Spanish and this number is increasing rapidly.

What does the Course involve?

You will develop and reinforce the language skills you have already acquired over the last three years. At GCSE, equal emphasis is placed on all four skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing. Topics include Lifestyle, Leisure, Home and Environment and Work and Education.

What skills will I develop?

Language skills are highly valued by employers who operate in an increasingly global market. Indeed, basic language skills can help you get more from life, whatever career you choose. Particular emphasis is placed on the spoken language and communicating with accuracy and confidence in a variety of unpredictable situations.

How will I learn?

Spanish lessons will take place in a stimulating and exciting environment where you will be challenged to improve your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Extra support is available within the department on a daily basis if necessary. ICT plays an integral role in the delivery of Spanish at GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

- Listening: Comprehension test (20%)
- Speaking: Oral examination carried out by Spanish teacher (30%)
- Reading: Comprehension test (20%)
- Writing: Controlled assessment – two assignments linked to topics covered during the course (30%)

What could a qualification lead to?

Speaking Spanish can open a door to a whole new world. Whether on holiday or meeting people at work, Spanish language skills will broaden your horizons and create new opportunities. A Level Spanish is a very popular and successful choice at St Edward's College. Indeed, many of our pupils pursue their interest in Spanish to higher education and beyond. Many universities now provide the opportunity to maintain your language skills alongside a wide range of degrees – including Law, Accountancy, Banking and even Medicine!

Pupil comments:

“Spanish lessons have given me the confidence to meet new friends on holiday!”

“I really enjoy Spanish because the lessons are fun and there is lots of variety.”

“My recent exchange with a Spanish family has convinced me that learning a language is both useful and fun at the same time.”

Your Notes

Art and Design

Design and Technology (Resistant Materials)

Design and Technology (Textiles)

Drama

English

English Literature

French

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Geography

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German

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History

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ICT (OCR National)

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Music

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Physical Education (full course and short course)

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Spanish

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