



DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

*Where every child is known and valued*

# GCSE Options Booklet

## Courses of Study

September 2023 – June 2026





## The GCSE Curriculum at DPS P4

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## Core Subjects P8

- English Language
  - English Literature
  - Mathematics
  - Science
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## Option Subjects P13

- Art & Design
  - Business
  - Computer Science
  - Design & Technology
  - Drama
  - French
  - Geography
  - History
  - Latin
  - Music
  - PE
  - Religious Studies
  - Spanish
- 

This booklet is designed to help you choose your GCSE subjects. As well as some general advice, it contains descriptions written by the various Heads of Departments at Ditcham Park School which will give you an insight into each subject and its appropriateness or otherwise for you as a subject choice.

Some people have no difficulty choosing their courses as they are quite sure which subjects they wish to pursue at GCSE level. For others, however, the choice is less obvious. If this is the case for you, I hope this booklet will help you in your decisions. Of course individual Heads of Department will be able to give you more advice, and I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity over the coming weeks.

**Mr Richard Howard**

Deputy Head of Seniors

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## Course Components Structure

### Senior Curriculum Map (25 lessons per week)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
7	English				Maths			Science				Lang		ICT	His	Geo	PSHE	RE	Art	DT	Dra	Mus	PE	G	
8	English				Maths			Science				Lang		ICT	His	Geo	PSHE	RE	Art	DT	Dra	Mus	PE	G	
9	English				Maths			Science				Option 1		Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	G	G							
10	English				Maths			Science				Option 1		Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	G	G							
11	English				Maths			Science				Option 1		Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	G	G							

**There are 25 one hour lessons per week in the GCSE Timetable at Ditcham Park School.**

Each week a GCSE pupil will have:

- 5 hours of English lessons
- 4 hours of Mathematics lessons
- 6 hours of Science lessons
- 2 hours per week in four different option subjects
- 2 hours of games

The timetable of the day is provided below:

### Senior Timetable

8:40 - 8:55	Registration
8:55 - 9:55	Period 1
9:55 - 10:55	Period 2
10:55 - 11:10	Break
11:10 - 12:10	Period 3
12:10 - 1:10	Period 4
1:10 - 2:00	Lunch
2:00 - 3:00	Period 5
3:00 - 3:45	Mini Lesson



## Course Components Compulsory Subjects

**GCSE pupils at Ditcham Park School will follow a broad course of study consisting of a mix of compulsory and optional GCSE and non GCSE subjects.**

All students will follow compulsory GCSE courses in:

- English Language
- English Literature
- mathematics
- science – either double or triple award

**With regard to science, pupils will have two choices.**

- study towards the three separate sciences (biology, chemistry & physics – three GCSEs).
- study towards the combined course (equivalent to two GCSEs). This course covers the same topics covered within the separate sciences course but in less depth.

In Year 9, all pupils will begin a course of study towards the three separate sciences. At the end of Year 9, pupils will either continue with their study towards the three separate sciences, or be transferred into the combined course. This decision will be made after careful reflection of pupils' engagement and performance through Year 9, and the potential they are showing. The final decision is at the discretion of the Head of Science.

It is important to note that the Combined Course, does not limit a pupil's potential choices at 6th Form College, but allows them to go on to choose any of the three separate sciences at A level, as long as the GCSE grades achieved within the Combined Course are high enough.



## Course Components Option Subjects

Selecting GCSE subjects is an exciting and important stage in each pupil's educational journey. Whilst we make the decision for the pupils in terms of the compulsory subjects, the DPS option blocks represent the opportunity for our pupils to begin to personalise their study.

There are four option blocks which contain a range of GCSE subjects including:

- art & design
- business
- computer science
- design & technology
- drama
- French
- geography
- history
- Latin
- music
- physical education
- religious studies
- Spanish

These subjects will be arranged into four option blocks in such a way as to satisfy as many student subject selections as possible based on a straw poll of student preferences taken in March.



## Making Choices

**At Ditcham Park School, pupils and their parents are encouraged to consider individual strengths, weaknesses and interests within the context of trying to achieve a broad and balanced GCSE curriculum.**

It must be emphasized to Year 8 pupils and their parents that once a pupil has embarked on a GCSE subject, he or she is expected to complete it. It is therefore very important for each pupil to be following courses which they are both interested in, but more importantly are within his or her capabilities. Please consider this point seriously when making choices, taking account of the advice given by our experienced teaching staff.

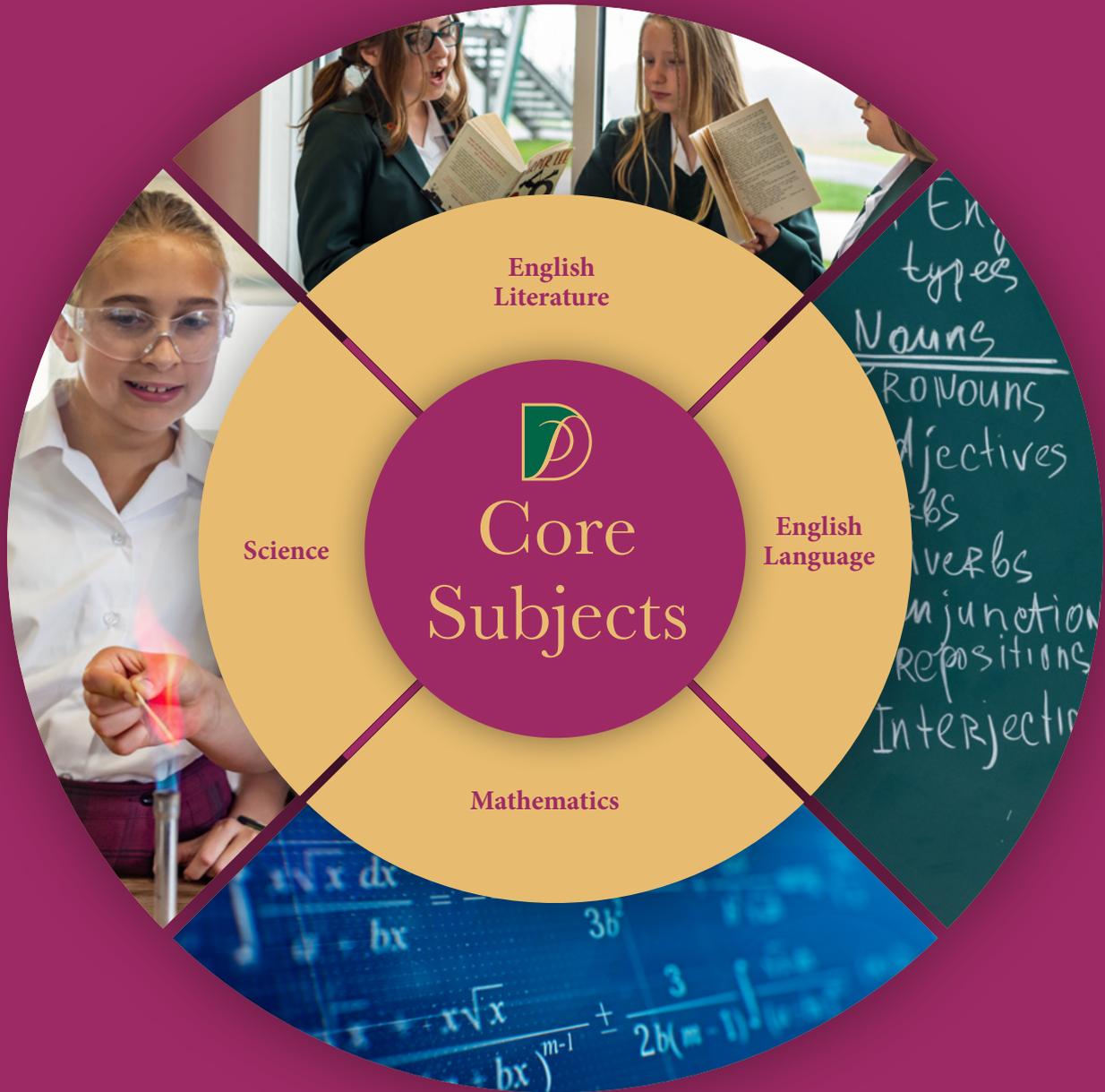
The English Baccalaureate was introduced as a way of measuring school performance across a range of academic subjects. It is not a qualification in itself. The measure recognises pupil achievement across a range of academic subjects consisting of English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a language. The subjects included are designed to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects, which will not limit their future progression and options.

Even though three components of the English Baccalaureate are compulsory at DPS, in finalising option choices it is possible that a pupil can select a range of GCSE subjects which does not fulfil the English Baccalaureate criteria. This is a position we are happy to accommodate in our aim to recognise and value the range and differing needs of our pupils.

Subject numbers are carefully monitored. Although GCSE classes are on average approximately 10-14 per class we do require a minimum of approximately 5 pupils for the class to be viable.

We believe that every pupil should include the study of a modern foreign language as part of their GCSE education, so strongly encourage every pupil at Ditcham Park School to choose either French or Spanish as one of their four choices within the Option blocks. However, the study of a modern foreign language is not compulsory, so pupils and parents are free to make their own decisions in this regard.

Of course, pupils who are passionate about language may study two languages, by choosing both Spanish and French within the option blocks, and may in fact enrich their studies of languages further by pursuing Latin as well.



**Ms Karren Roberts**

Head of English

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Examination Board AQA



## Why study English Language?

English Language is the keystone of the curriculum. All subjects require pupils to read with understanding and write with clarity according to purpose.

At GCSE level, marks and grades are allocated for proficiency in these skills.

For entry into sixth form courses, a good level in English (typically a grade 5) determines which doors are open to you. Indeed, this requirement continues with university entries where a good grade at English GCSE is a necessity on most courses.

More broadly, the ability to communicate is a vital life skill, enabling pupils to know more about the world in which they live.

## What will I learn?

### English Language Course Content

You will learn to read fluently and critically, and to write effectively. You should be able to demonstrate a confident control of standard English and to write grammatically correct sentences, deploy figurative language and analyse texts from a variety of sources.

## Examination and Assessment

The course is linear, which means all examinations will be sat at the end of the course.

English Language GCSE will be assessed via two papers which are both 1 hour 45 minutes long. The papers are as follows:

- **English Language Paper 1**  
'Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing'
- **English Language Paper 2**  
'Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives'

Each paper is worth 50% of the final grade.

A separate grade will be awarded for speaking and listening. It will not be part of the final English language level awarded but will appear on a candidate's GCSE certificate. This assessment will take place during the three year course and will involve presentation of a speech on a chosen subject.



**Ms Karren Roberts**

Head of English

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Examination Board AQA



## Why study English Literature?

English Literature is part of our cultural heritage. It enables pupils to live their own lives whilst experiencing that of others.

Readers are taken on journeys to other places, other times and other situations. They learn about society itself and their own place in the wider picture.

The study of literature provides the basis for a lifelong love of reading and also readily supports the acquisition of increasingly sophisticated ways of thinking and of using language. For this reason, the teaching and learning of English Literature and English Language go hand in hand within the classroom.

The course offers excellent preparation for A-level English Literature, as well as giving pupils a grounding in a wide variety of literature that will stay with them forever.

## What will I learn?

### English Literature Course Content

You will read a range of literature and develop your ability to respond with secure understanding, making connections across various texts. You will be given the opportunity to discuss meaning, to explain, analyse and evaluate your findings in a way which includes consideration of a text's relevance to social and historical context.

## Examination and Assessment

The course is linear, which means all examinations will be sat at the end of the course.

It will be assessed via two papers:

- **English Literature Paper 1**  
'Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel'
- **English Literature Paper 2**  
'Modern Texts and Poetry'

Paper 1 is worth 40% of the final grade and the time allowed is 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Paper 2 is worth 60% of the final grade and the time allowed is 2 hours 15 minutes.



## Mrs S Whittle

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Examination Board OCR



## Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a highly interconnected discipline which is essential to everyday life. Rational and logical thought has wider application throughout our lives.

Just as languages provide the building blocks and rules we need to communicate, maths uses its own language, made up of numbers, symbols and formulas, to explore the rules we need to measure or identify essential problems including distance, speed, time, space, change, force and quantities.

Studying maths helps us find patterns and structure in our lives. Practically, maths helps us put a price on things, create graphics, build websites, build skyscrapers and generally understand how things work or predict how they might change over time and under different conditions

When studying mathematics, you will become more fluent in methods and be able to apply techniques to a range of problems. You will make rich connections across mathematical ideas to develop fluency, mathematical reasoning and competence in solving increasingly sophisticated problems.

For entry into sixth form courses, a good level in mathematics (grade 5 or above) determines which doors are open to you and indeed, this requirement continues with university entries where a good grade in Mathematics is a necessity on most courses.

## What will I learn? – Mathematics Course Content

You are taught from the following key areas (weightings are in brackets)

- Number (15%)
- Algebra (30%)
- Ratio, proportion & rates of change (20%)
- Geometry and measures (20%)
- Probability & Statistics (15%)

## Examination and Assessment

The final GCSE examination will consist of three, 1 hour 30 minute exam papers, two of which will be calculator and one non calculator paper.

Each paper carries equal weighting.



**Mrs L Hoad**

Head of Science

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Examination Board AQA



## Why study Science?

Science has something to offer every pupil, whatever their aspirations. From trainee chef to nuclear physicist, construction apprentice to cancer researcher, everyone needs some level of relevant science understanding. There is no better way to learn about science than through purposeful practical activities and these form a large part of the science lessons at GCSE.

In Year 9 the topics covered are common to whichever science GCSE route you follow. The choice at GCSE is either to follow the three separate sciences: - biology, chemistry and physics or to follow the combined course which is equivalent to two GCSEs and covers the same topic areas as the separate sciences but in less depth. Decision about what pathway is best for pupils will be taken at the end of Year 9. This will be a combination of student option preference and teacher assessment of aptitude for the separate science course.

## What will I learn? Science Course Content

### Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance variation and evolution
- Ecology

### Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure and properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry and the atmosphere
- Using resources

### Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Space physics (separate physics only)

### Examination and Assessment

The course is linear, which means all examinations will be sat at the end of the course.

There is no controlled assessment in any of the science GCSEs. Students will be assessed on their practical skills and understanding as well as subject knowledge within the 3 subject areas.

### Combined

Six papers (each lasting 1 hour 15 minutes and each equally weighted); two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each will assess different topics.

### Biology/Chemistry/Physics

Two papers for each subject (each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes and each equally weighted).





## Mrs P Metcalfe

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Examination Board AQA



## Why study Art & Design?

Studying GCSE Art & Design will develop pupils' creativity and is a key qualification for entry into a wide range of careers in the arts. The creative industries are the fastest growing area of the economy. Creativity isn't only about pursuing artistic interests, it can also open the door to exciting career opportunities. Creativity is a key transferable skill and one which is increasingly prized by employers both within and outside the arts.

Our Art & Design course is flexible, offering a high degree of choice of subject matter and use of a wide range of different media, processes and techniques. Art gives pupils the opportunity to produce a portfolio of work that they can show to prospective employers or use to help secure a place in higher education and for further progression to Art & Design related courses such as A-level art, illustration, graphic design, fashion and textiles, photography, film and animation and enhanced vocational qualifications.

## What will I learn?

### Art & Design Course Content

Art aims to widen pupils' understanding of the world of art and their place in it. Pupils will be encouraged to: think, draw, develop skills and personal ideas, express themselves visually using a variety of materials, understand and use a specialist vocabulary, gain a personal visual voice.

Throughout the course pupils will work on two main themes: one will be a three dimensional sculpture project and the other a two dimensional painting and mixed media project.

Within each project pupils will need to develop knowledge of other artists and designers in history and contemporary culture. Trips to art galleries, museums and places of interest are an integral part of the course.

Sketchbooks are essential and enable pupils to record a personal response to themes which can be used in a variety of ways to record thoughts, feelings and experiences.

## Examination and Assessment

- Course work is worth 60% of the final GCSE grade
- Externally set exam is worth 40% of the final grade. This is a practical unit developing art work using materials and processes of their own choice on one of a selection of themes. Preparatory work will take 12 weeks culminating in a 10 hour final piece.



## Mr R Howard

Head of Business

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Examination Board AQA

## Why study Business?

Everything in life involves business.

Think about the last piece of clothing you bought and then think of what businesses made that purchase possible. The obvious ones are the shop and factory which produced and sold the item but there would be dozens of others that were involved through the production and retail process.

Thinking about all these businesses, the people involved and what they each did allows you to begin to understand what business is all about.

Business is a major part of our daily life and anybody who has a good idea about how businesses work are at an immediate advantage in the future.

## What will I learn?

### Business Course Content

You will apply your knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts.

You will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour and also apply your knowledge and understanding to business decision making including business operations, finance, marketing and human resources, and how these interdependencies underpin business decision making.

## Examination and Assessment

The course is linear, which means all examinations will be sat at the end of the course.

The course will be assessed by the way of two 1 hour 45 minute examinations.

- **Paper 1:** Influences of operations and HRM on business activity
- **Paper 2:** Influences of marketing and finance on business activities

Each assessment is worth 50% of the overall final grade



**Mr D Harding**

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Examination Board Edexcel/OCR

## Why study Computer Science?

Computers and computing are a key part of nearly all aspects of our lives. This GCSE will inspire and unlock opportunities for future careers in an area of industry that is rapidly expanding.

The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area and those that can demonstrate the fundamentals of what has now become one of the most dominant tools in industry.

## What will I learn:

### Computer Science Course Content

The computer science GCSE will give learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works.

The qualification will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established during the KS3 computing lessons. The course will develop critical thinking, creativity, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming, as well as developing a solid understanding of how computers work.

The course will cover:

### Computer Systems

- Systems Architecture
- CPUs
- Memory
- Storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security and hacking
- System software

### Computational Thinking

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Computational logic
- Data representation

### Programming Fundamentals

- Programming fundamentals in python

## Examination and Assessment

The course has two assessment components.

**Component 1:** Computer Systems. Written exam looking at the inner workings of computers, how computers can communicate over the internet and computational thinking. 50% of overall grade

**Component 2:** Computer based coding exam. 50% of overall grade.



## Mr J Hoad

Head of Design & Technology  
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Examination Board AQA

## Why study Design & Technology?

“Design & Technology is a phenomenally important subject.

Logical, creative and practical, it's the only opportunity students have to apply what they learn in Maths and Science.”

*Sir James Dyson Founder and Chairman of Dyson and Patron to the D&T Association*

GCSE D&T opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. It is also excellent preparation for careers in many other fields including medicine, law and computer science. Whatever career you choose, the knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, will be extremely valuable. You will also develop skills, such as teamwork and time management which are highly prized by employers.

The Design & Technology course covers the use of woods, metals, polymers, systems, electronics, card/graphics and fabrics/textiles in a single qualification.

## What will I learn?

### Design & Technology Course Content

You will build on what you learnt about designing and making in Key Stage 3.

You will use your knowledge and skills to design and make new and better solutions to real problems - on your own and with others - working with the materials you choose.

### Key areas of development will include:

- Understanding users, their needs and their characteristics
- Designing
- Using testing, evaluation and the views of users to improve designs
- Learning about materials
- Analysing products
- Learning how things work
- Evaluating your own work and that of others

## Examination and Assessment

The course will be assessed by the way of one 2 hour written examination and one piece of non examined assessment (coursework), each of these assessments makes up 50% of the total grade.

Classes in D&T are limited to 16 pupils to allow pupils to develop their ideas, models and extended projects in a suitable workspace.



**Mrs S Wey**

Head of Drama

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Examination Board Edexcel



## Why study Drama?

A young person with a successful GCSE Drama qualification has the following advantages.

- The starting block to pursuing a career in Theatre and other Creative Industries as an actor, a director, a producer, a playwright, a designer, a stage manager or administrator
- The top 3 most desirable skills employers are looking for:

LinkedIn recently published findings for the top 3 skills employers are looking for in 2022 and beyond. All of these skills are highly developed during the GCSE Drama course and include...

**CREATIVITY** ‘drama creates individuals who can think outside of the box and take risks’

**COMMUNICATION** ‘drama allows individuals to develop the ability to effectively communicate ideas in order to persuade colleagues and stakeholders to follow your lead’

**COLLABORATION** ‘drama develops the ability to work effectively as part of a team to brainstorm ideas, problem solve and devise innovative solutions’

The course also provides the opportunity for pupils to work practically as well as academically and to follow an **EXCITING** and **VIBRANT** programme of study which will involve them in experiencing **LIVE THEATRE PRODUCTIONS** and participating in **WORKSHOPS** with professional actors/theatre companies.

## Examination and Assessment

### Component 1: Devising

(Practical and written coursework worth 40% of GCSE)

#### Content overview

- Create and develop a devised piece from stimulus
- Performance of this devised piece or design realization for this performance
- Analyze and evaluate the devising process and performance

#### Assessment overview

- Internally assessed and externally moderated
- Students produce a portfolio covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of the process
- A devised performance/design realization

### Component 2: Performance from Text

(Practical coursework worth 20% of GCSE)

#### Content overview

- Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text

#### Assessment overview

- Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.
- Group, solo and/or partner-based routes for assessment

### Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (Written examination worth 40% of GCSE)

#### Content overview

- Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text
- Live theatre evaluation

#### Assessment overview

- Examination of 1 hour and 45 minutes



## Mrs H Bond

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Examination Board Eduqas

## French

### 1. French in the world

More than 270 million people speak French worldwide. It is the official language of Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, France, Guinea, Haiti, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Monaco, Niger, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland, Togo, and Vanuatu.

### 2. French in the job market

The ability to speak French and English is an advantage on the international job market. France is the world's fifth biggest economy, ranks third for foreign investment, and with 89 million visitors a year, is the most visited country in the world. For certain organisations ie the CERN Centre in Switzerland, a good command of French is a requirement. Paris has the highest number of engineers working in research and development in the whole of Europe. It is home to a large number of elite universities in this field and France is home to international companies such as Airbus, Thales, Mercedes-Benz and Renault.

### 3. Art, Fashion, Cuisine, Architecture

Think Eiffel Tower, think Louis Vuitton, think Daft Punk and David Guetta, Monet, Cézanne and Picasso. French is the international language of fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture and culinary expertise. Our own Gordon Ramsay learnt French by working for world renowned chefs in both Paris and the Alps in his early twenties.

### 4. French's connection to other languages

Half of all English words come from French. By learning a foreign language you are more likely to learn grammatical terminology than by studying your own. French also shares common roots with Spanish, Italian, Portugues and Romanian so may make learning a third language easier. Plus, you will have acquired some good learning techniques from your school studies that you can take with you into the future.

### 5. Ditcham's trip to France

At Ditcham, we aim to run a language trip each year so there is plenty of scope for you to use your French abroad.



## Mrs H Bond

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Examination Board Eduqas

## What will I learn?

### Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others  
 Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle  
 Topic 3: Education and work

### Theme 2: Popular Culture

Topic 1: Free-time activities  
 Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations  
 Topic 3: Celebrity culture

### Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest  
 Topic 2: Media and technology  
 Topic 3: The environment and where people live

## The good news

The new French GCSE has been made easier. The government has recognised that it made things a little difficult in the past and is on a drive to encourage more pupils to take it at GCSE and beyond. Universities like students with an A level in a foreign language as it makes us more marketable internationally.

## Examination and Assessment (Exam Board AQA tbc)

There is a listening, reading speaking and writing paper, each worth 25%.

- Listening – 35 mins foundation, 45 mins higher
- Reading – 45 mins foundation, 1 hr higher
- Speaking – 7-9 mins foundation, 10-12 mins higher. The exam is conducted by your teacher
- Writing – 45 mins foundation, 1 hr higher



**Mrs R Turner**

Head of Geography

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Examination Board AQA



## Why study Geography?

Geography is, in the broadest sense, an education for life and for living. Learning through geography, (whether gained through formal learning in lessons or experientially through fieldwork) helps us all to be more socially and environmentally sensitive, better informed, and more responsible citizens.

Geography is unique because it bridges the humanities and sciences. Geography recognises the great differences in cultures, political systems, economies, landscapes and environments across the world, and explores the links and inequalities between them.

It is not surprising that those trained as geographers are present in every workplace because of the broad range of skills involved in understanding the world. For example: data collection, statistical analysis, report writing, essay writing, creative data presentation and cartography.

## What will I learn?

### Geography Course Content

This exciting and relevant course studies geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them.

Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case study examples. Students are encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

### Unit 1 - Living with the Physical Environment

#### Topics:

- The challenge of Natural Hazards
- The Living World
- Physical Landscapes in the UK
- Geographical Skills

### Unit 2 - Challenges in the Human Environment

#### Topics:

- Urban Issues and Challenges
- The Changing Economic World
- The Challenge of Resource Management
- Geographical Skills

### Unit 3 - Geographical Applications

#### Topics:

- Issue Evaluation
- Fieldwork
- Geographical Skills

## Examination and Assessment

The course is linear, which means all three examinations will be sat at the end of the course. There is one tier of entry.

- Unit 1 (1 hour 30 mins) - 35%  
Living with the Physical Environment
- Unit 2 (1 hour 30 mins) - 35%  
Challenges in the Human Environment
- Unit 3 (1 hour 15 mins) - 30%  
Geographical Applications



## Mr G Harris

Head of History

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Examination Board AQA (8145)

## Why study History?

Learning about history enables you to understand society today.

Understanding about events and people that shaped who we are is important.

History gives us the opportunity to see how daily life has changed over the years, and what goes into fostering that change.

Knowing what events led up to historically significant situations helps us better predict and influence our own future.

By studying history, you will have a better understanding of the world and what shaped it into the world it is today. You will understand the suffering, joy, and chaos that were necessary for the present day to happen.

## What will I learn?

### History Course Content

#### Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

##### Section A: Period study

- Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy and dictatorship

##### Section B: Wider world depth study

- Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950-1975

#### Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

##### Section A: Thematic study

- Britain; Power and the People c1170 to the present

##### Section B: British depth study including The historic environment

- Elizabethan England, c1568-1603

## Examination and Assessment

The course is linear, which means all examinations will be sat at the end of the course.

The course will be assessed by the way of two 2 hour examinations.

- Paper 1: Understanding the modern world
- Paper 2 : Shaping the Nation

Each assessment is worth 50% of the overall final grade.



**Ms O Bicknell**

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Examination Board Eduqas

## Why study Latin?

- Latin GCSE is both stimulating and interesting as it allows you a chance to delve into the exciting world of mythology and fascinating storytellers.
- It will be useful in many careers and will look great on your university application! Latin is much valued by universities and employers because of the discipline and attention to detail that learning the language requires.
- This is a highly regarded qualification due to the questioning and problem-solving abilities gained by its students, and its skillset complements and helps with many other GCSE subjects, especially English Literature and History.
- You will be introduced to vocabulary and grammar that will help you to understand how English has developed. It's also a fantastic choice to complement study of a Modern Foreign Language. The precision and linguistic skills required will really help you in all your other subjects.
- Latin is very good for your thinking skills: it is a very logical language that can be deciphered like a code, solved like a puzzle.
- You will have opportunities to study first-hand accounts of battles, entertainment, and traditional customs in Ancient Rome. You will use your own knowledge to contrast Ancient issues surrounding economics, politics and religion - with the modern day.

## What will I learn?

### Latin Course Content

- Latin Language – you will increase your Latin vocabulary and learn how Latin sentences are constructed so that you can translate stories from Roman myth and history into English. You may

also begin to write your own simple sentences in Latin. There is no requirement to speak the language just to read and understand it.

- Latin Literature and Sources – You will be introduced to various Latin authors and other sources (art, sculpture, artefacts) and learn about life in Rome from the Romans themselves. The topic for GCSE 2024 is 'Love and Marriage', where we will read first hand accounts written between friends and lovers while finding out about attitudes towards women at the time. Past topics have included 'A Day at the Races', 'Magic and Superstition' and 'Travel by Land and Sea'.
- Roman Civilisation – This unit is taught and examined entirely in English. We explore various aspects of Roman life, analysing and evaluating the evidence that the Romans have left behind – ruins, art, artefacts, and texts. The current topic is Roman Family Life: Gender Roles in Ancient Rome, the life of Children and their Educational ventures, Slavery and Freedom, Marriage/ Divorce and rituals and superstitions surrounding Death and Burials. GCSE trips to support this unit in Forms 3 and 4 in the past have included Fishbourne Roman Palace and Bath (Aquae Sulis).

## Examination and Assessment

The course is linear, which means all examinations take place at the end of the course.

The course will be examined by way of three exams.

- Latin Language (50%) – 1 hour 30 minutes
- Latin Literature (30%) – 1 hour 15 minutes
- Roman Civilisation (20%) – 1 hour



## Mr E Williamson

Head of Music

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Examination Board Edexcel

## Why study Music?

“Without Music, life would be a mistake.”

*Friedrick Nietzsche*

The Edexcel GCSE Music qualification is designed to inspire pupils to form personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills. Pupils will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

## What will I learn?

### Music Course Content

There are **THREE** components: **PERFORMING**, **COMPOSING** and **APPRISING**

- Develop performing skills in both a solo and ensemble context; develop creative thinking, aesthetic sensitivity, critical awareness, self-confidence, self-motivation and their own musical interests and skills; to perform with control, using phrasing and dynamics appropriate to their chosen styles and moods of music.
- Learn skills in composing music and to appreciate the process of creating music; to explore a range of compositional starting points and investigate a range of elements, techniques and resources for developing and manipulating ideas, and turning them into completed pieces of music.

through the study of music across a variety of styles and genres. The content is grouped into four areas of study, each of which contains two set works; reflect on, analyse and evaluate music in aural and/or written form; develop knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language to make critical judgements about the repertoire and context of music within the areas of study and the 8 set works; develop a wider listening of pieces for each area of study which will help students relate their learning to other pieces of music.

## Examination and Assessment

**ONE** externally examined paper and **TWO** non-examined assessments (NEA)

### Component 1: PERFORMING:

30% of qualification; NEA; internally marked and externally moderated; **TWO** performances: 30 marks each; total: 60 marks

### Component 2: COMPOSING:

30% of qualification; NEA; internally marked and externally moderated; **TWO** compositions: 30 marks each; total: 60 marks

### Component 3: APPRAISING:

40% of qualification; Written Examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes; Total: 80 marks

### Written Examination in **TWO** sections:

Section A: Areas of Study, dictation, unfamiliar pieces (68 marks);

Section B: Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece (12 marks)



## Mr G Vaudrey

Head of Physical education

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Examination Board EdExcel



## Why study Physical Education?

The GCSE Physical Education full course will appeal to you if:

- you have a keen interest in sport and recreation and always look forward to your PE lessons
- take part in sport/recreation outside of class time.
- want to follow a course that develops knowledge and understanding through practical involvement
- want to know more about the benefits of sport and exercise
- want to improve your own performance in a range of sports roles
- want to study a course that is active and that you will enjoy
- are considering a sports-related career or an A Level/Higher Education course

## What will I learn?

### Physical Education Course Content

- develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport
- understand how the physiological state affects performance in physical activity and sport
- perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques
- develop ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity
- understand the contribution that physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and wellbeing.

## Examination and Assessment

The GCSE course is assessed over four components:

**Component 1 (36%)** is a written exam paper of 1 hour and 30 minutes on fitness and body systems.

**Component 2 (24%)** is a written exam of 1 hour and 15 minutes on Health and Performance.

**Component 3 (30%)** is a practical non-examined assessment which is internally marked and externally moderated.

The assessment consists of students completing **three** physical activities from a set list: **one team activity, one individual activity and one free choice.**

**Component 4 (10%)** is a non-examined assessment: internally marked and externally moderated. The basis of the assessment is producing A Personal Exercise Programme (PEP).



**Mrs J Browning**

Head of Religious Studies

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Examination Board AQA

## Why study Religious Studies?

Today everyone has an opinion on Religious practices or on a variety of philosophical problems. Questions may arise about god, the universe, war, rights and wrongs in any given situation - both at work and home. Indeed, as humans we are naturally inquisitive and keen to problem solve.

In the classroom environment there will be encouragement for pupils to broaden their horizons by debating contemporary, spiritual, moral, cultural and philosophical topics, all key to becoming deep-thinking and considerate individuals ready for the 'outside world'.

Strengthening confidence and opening up the pupils to a seminar environment will assist with their written work, reasoning, logic and self-perception - as well as expanding their capacity for empathy in the confines of an academic qualification.

These critical thinking and reasoning skills can assist with other subjects and for future jobs in the arts, politics, law, journalism, science and beyond.

## What will I learn?

### Religious Studies Course Content.

#### Component 1- Religious Studies

Studying two main religions from a choice of:

- Christianity or Catholic Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Buddhism
- Sikhism
- Hinduism

#### Component 2 - Religious philosophical and ethical studies

Four thematic - topics are studied, these range from: the existence of God and revelation, crime and punishment, the value of human life, the origins of the universe, religion peace and conflict, human rights and gender, wealth and poverty.

## Examination and Assessment

The course is linear, which means all examinations will be sat at the end of the course in May/June. The course will be assessed by the way of two 1 hour 45 minute examinations.

- Paper 1: Religious Studies
- Paper 2: Religious philosophical and ethical studies

Each assessment is worth 50% of the overall final grade. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are also key.



## Mrs H Bond

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Examination Board Eduqas



## Why study Spanish?

Spanish is more widely spoken in the world as a native language than English. With over 400 million native speakers of Spanish, it is the official language of 21 countries. In the US, there are more Spanish speakers than in Spain and it is estimated that by 2050, it will overtake English as the main language there. It is spoken in all of Central America and South America, apart from Brazil. To compete on the global job market, we must have the same skills as counterparts from overseas and speak their language as they do ours.

### Here are nine more reasons to study Spanish:

1. Gap Year! Spread your wings on a gap year trekking through the Andes or canoeing down the Amazon
2. Holidays! Enjoy fantastic holiday venues be it the Costas, Los Picos De Europa, city breaks in Madrid or the mystical Mayan site of Machu Pichu
3. Music Festivals. Experience the latest and bravest of the dance, pop and rock world at the music festivals of Benacassim in Valencia and Ushaia in Ibiza
4. Football. Watch some of the greatest football at the stadiums of Real Madrid and Barcelona FC, visit the Berbabau and see the trophies of Suárez, Ronaldo, Torres and Ramos
5. Food. Feast on some delicious food by going on a tapas tour, sampling chorizo, cooking paella, cooling down with a chilled gazpacho soup or going out for a breakfast of chocolate con churros
6. Fashion. Hit the shops of Zara and Mango
7. Art. Witness at first hand the art of Picasso, Gaudi, Dalí, Goya, Miró in Spains amazing art museums or go further afield to Mexico to see the murals of Diego Riviera and the house of Frida Kahlo
8. Welcome. Prepare to receive a warm welcome from the Spanish speaking world who just love it if you can speak their language
9. School trip. Travel to Spain with your school friends and immerse yourself in the language, culture and scenery on our trip to Spain



**Mrs H Bond**

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Examination Board Eduqas



## What will I learn?

### Spanish Course Content

#### Theme 1: Identity and Culture

Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others  
 Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle  
 Topic 3: Education and work

#### Theme 2: Popular Culture

Topic 1: Free-time activities  
 Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations  
 Topic 3: Celebrity culture

#### Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest  
 Topic 2: Media and technology  
 Topic 3: The environment and where people live

## The good news

The new Spanish GCSE has been made easier. The government has recognised that it made things a little difficult in the past and is on a drive to encourage more pupils to take it at GCSE and beyond. Universities like students with an A level in a foreign language as it makes us more marketable internationally.

## Examination and Assessment (Exam Board AQA tbc)

There is a listening, reading, speaking and writing paper, each worth 25%.

- Listening – 35 mins foundation, 45 mins higher
- Reading – 45 mins foundation, 1 hr higher
- Speaking – 7-9 mins foundation, 10-12 mins higher. The exam is conducted by your teacher
- Writing – 45 mins foundation, 1 hr higher





# DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL



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