

# GCSE Art

## Course information

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### Art

#### What will I Learn?

An ability to express yourself in a variety of art materials. Skills, such as observational drawings. An understanding of the work of artists, architects, designers and craft persons. Students may be able to specialise in the 'Fine Arts' which could include Painting and Drawing, Print making, Digital Imaging, Photography and Sculpture.

#### How will I be taught?

Using your technical, research and creative skills you are required to develop your own work by being able to:

- Record observations, experiences and ideas in forms that are appropriate to intentions.
- Analyse and evaluate images, objects and artefacts showing understanding of context
- Explore ideas using media, processes and resources, reviewing, modifying and refining work as it progresses
- Present a personal response, realising intentions and making informed connections with the work of others

#### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Students should be able to use good technical art skills in a range of art materials.

You must be imaginative; you will need to develop personal ideas and an independent approach to work.

You should have strong visual awareness relating to your surroundings.

# BTEC Enterprise

## Course information

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### Business and Enterprise

**Examination board:** Edexcel

**Qualification:** BTEC

### What will I learn?

Understanding of how businesses operate. The units studied below outline the core content of each section of the course:

**Component 1- Exploring Enterprises.** Learners will examine different enterprises to develop their knowledge and understanding of the characteristics and skills needed by entrepreneurs. Assessment for this unit is completed internally.

**Component 2- Planning for and running a business.** Learners will select an enterprise idea to plan for. They will work in small groups to run a micro-enterprise activity. Assessment for this unit is completed internally.

**Component 3- Promotion and finance for enterprise.** Learners will explore the different promotional methods used by enterprises and the factors that influence how they identify and target a market. Learners will explore key financial concepts needed to run a business. Assessment for this unit is a 2 hour external examination.

### How will I learn?

You will receive a series of practical and theory lessons.

### What skills do I need?

You should be able to use a computer with confidently.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

This course could lead to a successful career in various industries, It could also be a route to study A level/ Level 3 Business.

# GCSE Computing

## Course information

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### Computing

**Examination board:** OCR

**Qualification:** GCSE

### Assessment:

Unit 1 - Computer Systems - Written Paper 50% of the qualification

Unit 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms & programming - Written Paper 50% of the qualification

### Why study GCSE computing?

This GCSE gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they're used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills.

### What will I learn?

The computer systems unit will teach you the theory about a wide range of issues such as hardware and software, databases, computer communications, networking and ethical issues. The programming units will introduce you to algorithms, programming techniques and how data is represented in a computer. You will learn how to write computer programmes using code.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

You must enjoy solving problems. There will be an expectation that you are willing to undertake tasks independently. You will need to be able to think logically.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

If you take a GCSE in Computing and then go on to study the subject at A Level. The increasing importance of Computer Science means there'll be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this field.

# Drama

## Course information

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### Drama

#### What will I learn?

Students will learn how to perform. However, they will also learn to understand the roles, responsibilities and skills needed within the performing arts industry. Students will consider different performance disciplines. Students will have the opportunity to plan, design and create a play including stage setting, lighting, sound and costume.

#### How will I learn?

There is a balance between written and practical work. Students do need to be committed to this subject and may need to spend time after school rehearsing. Students will learn by performing and studying the performances of others. Students will be expected to work with one another throughout this course.

#### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Creativity, teamwork, reflective and interested in performing.

#### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

A drama qualification can be beneficial for absolutely any career path, due to the transferable skills you acquire. Ultimately, drama can give you the confidence and strong interpersonal skills.

“Drama has brought me out of my shell and made my confidence grow.”

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# OCR Engineering

## Course information

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### Engineering

#### What will I learn?

Students develop the fundamental skills and knowledge required by the engineering industry. Students also explore design, production or systems engineering in more detail, preparing them for further study, apprenticeship or work in the sector.

#### How will I learn?

There is a balance between written and practical work. Students do need to be committed to this subject and may need to spend time after school finishing practical work.

#### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Creativity, teamwork, reflective and interested in performing.

#### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

An Engineering qualification can be beneficial for absolutely any career path, due to the transferable skills you acquire. Ultimately, it allows you to gain a fundamental grounding in engineering should you wish to follow this in the future.

# Hospitality and catering

## Course information

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### Hospitality and Catering

**Examination board:** Eduqas

**Qualification:** Level 1/2

### What will I Learn?

- How chefs produce food for functions.
- How to cater for different customer needs.
- How to make healthy balanced meals.
- How to cost and shop for ingredients.
- How to produce restaurant quality food.
- You will learn about the catering environment, and the role of individual staff.
- You will also be taught health and safety and food hygiene.

### How will I learn?

You will learn by researching, planning and carrying out practical tasks. You will practice high level cooking skills and understanding the theory behind the cooking methods.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

- Continue in full time education e.g. Catering / Hospitality Diploma
- Train as a chef/ apprenticeship course.
- Work in the catering or hospitality industry.
- Excellent practical skills.



## Course information

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**Examination board:** Eduqas

**Assessment:** External Examination and Coursework including Performances and Compositions.

### What will I learn during the two-year course?

This course provides students the opportunity to gain self-confidence and team-working skills through performing, composing and appraising music.

The course covers 4 Areas of Study:

- **Area of Study 1 Musical Forms and Devices** Music from the Baroque, Classical or Romantic eras
- **Area of Study 2 Music for Ensemble** A performance of a piece of ensemble music in either the chamber music tradition, or musical theatre tradition or the jazz and blues tradition
- **Area of Study 3 Film Music** A performance of a piece of music used in a film or composed specifically for a film
- **Area of Study 4 Popular Music** A performance of any genre of popular music

The course will extend students' creative skills through composing and performing music and encourages the understanding of the importance of continuous evaluation and refinement in any process.

It also provides a solid foundation for progression to music related courses, including A-level Music, and a career in music professions.

### How will I learn?

You will be taught the skills needed to perform as a soloist and an ensemble musician and you will produce a minimum of two musical recordings.

You will be taught the skills needed to compose your own music and you will produce compositions.

You will listen critically to a range of music from different times and places.

You must enjoy making music; performing on an instrument; composing music; listening to a wide range of musical styles and have an interest in the technical/production side of music.



# GCSE Photography

## Course information

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### GCSE Photography

#### What will I Learn?

A portfolio of work is to be produced, during the two year course; this demonstrates your ability to express yourself using a variety of photographic and digital media materials. Assignments are given as starting points but it is expected that an individual approach will be developed with homework and studio shoots complementing classwork. An understanding of the work of artists, architects, designers and craft persons is developed through personal study.

In essence, the course will show what they know, understand and can do in art and design.

#### How will I learn?

Using your technical, research and creative skills you are required to develop your own work by being able to:

- Record observations, experiences and ideas in forms that are appropriate to intentions.
- Analyse and evaluate images, objects and artefacts showing understanding of context.
- Develop and explore ideas using media, processes and resources, reviewing, modifying and refining work as it progresses.
- Present a personal response, realising intentions and making informed connections with the work of others.

#### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Skills Required: Students should be able to use good technical skills in a range of materials.

They will be expected to develop personal ideas and an independent approach to their work.

Additionally, you will show good visual awareness relating to your studies and surroundings and use tools and equipment in a controlled and safe manner.

#### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

A GCSE qualification in Photography can open up a variety of opportunities in industry including fashion, retail, social media and advertising. It can also lead to Post 16 courses, A Level and degree courses in Photography.

# GCSE Graphics

## Course information

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### Graphics

#### What will I Learn?

Students are required to work in **one or more** area(s) of graphic communication, such as those listed below:

- communication graphics
- design for print
- advertising and branding
- illustration
- package design
- typography
- multi-media
- signage

#### How will I learn?

You will explore the way sources inspire the development of ideas relevant to graphic communication including:

- how sources relate to a given or self-defined brief which might, for example, have a commercial, social or environmental focus or be concerned with other aspects specific to the creative industries
- how ideas, themes, forms, issues and needs can provide the stimulus for creative, imaginative, thoughtful and appropriately focused responses that are fit for a specific intended purpose.

This will be a combination of written and practical work.

#### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Skills Required: Students should be able to use good technical skills in a range of materials.

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# GCSE Religious Studies

## Course information

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### Religious Studies

#### What will I learn?

##### Paper 1 - The study of religions: Beliefs, teachings and practices

- Christianity.
- Islam.

##### Paper 2 - Thematic studies

- Religion and Life.
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, crime and punishment.
- Religion and family life.

#### How will I learn?

- You will learn the skill of analysis to develop your own personal critical thinking skills.
- You will learn the ability to work with abstract ideas and develop your research skills.
- You will learn through questioning and discussion of your own and other beliefs; exploring the reasons why people hold the beliefs that they do and how this impacts their lives.

#### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

- Religious studies challenges your questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling you to develop your attitudes to religious issues.
- Religious Studies allows you to appreciate how religion, philosophy and ethics is the basis of our culture.

#### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

GCSE Religious Studies is an excellent foundation for going onto study A levels in Religious Studies, Sociology and links well with subjects such as History and Politics. Religious Studies can open doors for possible careers such as teaching, the police, counselling, nursing, social work and many more.

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# OCR Sport

## Course information

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### Sport Studies

**What will I Learn?** You will cover a range of topics including:

The issues which affect participation in sport  
The role of sport in promoting values  
The importance of hosting major sporting events  
Personal qualities, styles, roles and responsibilities associated with effective sports leadership  
Different types of outdoor activities

You will develop on existing skills such as:

Be able to plan a sports activity session  
Be able to deliver a sports activity session  
Be able to evaluate own performance in delivering a sports activity session

### How will I Learn?

Teaching will be both Practical as well as classroom based. You will be expected to work independently at times as well as working in groups. Assessment will be a combination of presentation work, modular tests and ongoing practical assessment. A part of your assessment will involve your understanding and application of rules and regulations, including the ability to umpire or referee.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

You will need to arrive to each lesson with the correct kit and equipment (pens etc.) Failure to bring kit to lessons could result in your losing marks from your final grade. You should be a motivated person who has a keen interest in sport. Attendance at extra-curricular clubs is an advantage.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

This course can be a starting point to a career in the sporting and leisure industry as well as a prerequisite to further education sporting opportunities.



# GCSE Geography

## Course information

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### What will I learn?

#### Paper 1 Living with the physical environment:

- The challenge of natural hazards. The living world.
- Physical landscapes in the UK.

#### Paper 2 Challenges in the human environment:

- Urban issues and challenges.
- The changing economic world.
- The challenge of resource management

#### Paper 3 Geographical applications

- Issue evaluation.
- Fieldwork.
- Geographical skills.

### How will I learn?

In GCSE Geography you will learn through mix of theory, practical investigations and field trips. You will have the chance to get hands on with Geography alongside classroom learning. Learning will be focused on the development of case study knowledge alongside practical and statistical skill.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

GCSE Geography is useful not only for future A-Level studies but the geographical applications unit studied can help with apprenticeships and work due to the skills element of the course, for example map skills, fieldwork and data analysis. GCSE Geography can also lead to a range of careers such as Environmental Scientist, Town Planner, outdoor activities, tour guide and many more.

# GCSE History

## Course information

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### What will I learn?

Paper 1 Thematic study and historic environment: Crime and Punishment:

Paper 2 Period Study and British Depth Study

Paper 3 Modern depth study

### How will I learn?

We believe in the importance of learning from History. That's why we have chosen a specification that enables students to study different aspects of the past, so they can engage with key issues such as conflict, understand what drives change and how this can influence the present. You will learn how to use and apply knowledge, skills and understanding in a variety of settings. You will learn through demonstration, practice, questioning and discussion. You will learn to make important connections and comparisons between different aspects of the events and themes studied. You will also learn to describe, analyse and evaluate the important causes and consequences of historical events and situations. You will be challenged to assess the significance of individuals, events, developments and ideas in the history studied and assessed on the use of your source analysis skills.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

You need to be able to communicate your understanding to others. Key historical skills you will learn are change and continuity, cause and consequence, significance and being able to analyse evidence. You will need to be able to work independently and with others. Come with enthusiasm and willing to learn, we will do the rest.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

GCSE History is an excellent foundation for going onto study A levels in History and links well with subjects such as Sociology, Politics and Law. Historians are well respected in the job market. They pursue a very wide range of careers including lawyers, detectives and journalists, politicians from the Government front bench to the civil service, broadcasters and publishers. They work in marketing, advertising and public relations, and inevitably, historians make excellent managers, securing successful careers in businesses of all kinds from finance to retail.

# GCSE Mathematics

## Course information

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### Mathematics

#### What will I learn?

GCSE Mathematics provides is both a broad and coherent qualification. Students will be encouraged to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, Mathematics and to recognise the importance of Mathematics in their own lives.

The content has been organised into topic areas:

Number

Algebra

Ratio, proportion and rates of change

Geometry and measures

Probability

Statistics

#### How will I learn?

You will learn how to use and apply knowledge, skills and understanding in practical tasks, in real-life problems and within mathematics itself. You will learn through demonstration, practice, questioning and discussion.

#### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

You need to be able to communicate your understanding to others. You will need to be able to work independently and with others. Come willing to learn and we will do the rest!

#### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

It is essential that everyone can demonstrate competence in mathematics both for continuing in education or for going into employment.

# GCSE English language & literature

## Course information

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### English Language

#### What will I learn?

You will learn to write to describe, narrate, entertain, persuade and argue in an effective way. You will read extracts from fiction and non-fiction and learn how to analyse these to show the writer's intentions and how they affect the reader.

#### How will I learn?

The course is essentially classroom based but you will be given the opportunity to develop your skills and knowledge through other media, such as the use of the internet, to conduct your own research on many of the elements studied. You will also have plenty of opportunities to discuss your responses to the subject.

#### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

The development of language skills is a fundamental part of the education process for all individuals. Elements studied in this course will have an impact on all of your subjects which in turn opens the door to all sorts of opportunities. English Language GCSE is now an essential requirement for movement into further education and training.

### English Literature

#### What will I learn?

You will study a range of texts including Shakespeare, 19<sup>th</sup> century novels, Gothic and Dystopian fiction. You will also study poetry, plays and non-fiction texts. These texts give you a broad knowledge of literature through the ages and you will learn to understand, analyse and appreciate the authors and their methods of writing.

#### How will I learn?

GCSE English Literature offers the opportunity to explore texts from a personal perspective and offers an experience of Literature today as well as the English Literary Heritage. You will have opportunities to work with your class members to discuss your responses to key themes from the literature studied.

#### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

The development of the skills of critically analysing texts complement the skills you develop when studying for English Language. Elements studied in this course will have an impact on all subjects which in turn opens the door to all sorts of opportunities.

# GCSE French

## Course information

### French

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

#### Paper 1

##### What's assessed

Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language

##### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)
  - 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)
  - 25% of GCSE
- (Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.)

#### Paper 2

##### What's assessed

Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes

##### How it's assessed

- Non-exam assessment
- 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

#### Paper 3

##### What's assessed

Understanding and responding to different types of written language

##### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

#### Paper 4

##### What's assessed

Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

##### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier
- 25% of GCSE

# GCSE Science (core)

## Course information

All children need to study GCSE Science.

What will I learn in KS4?

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cell biology</li><li>• Organisation</li><li>• Infection and response</li><li>• Bioenergetics</li><li>• Homeostasis and response</li><li>• Inheritance, variation and evolution</li><li>• Ecology</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Atomic structure and the periodic table</li><li>• Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter</li><li>• Quantitative chemistry</li><li>• Chemical changes</li><li>• Energy changes</li><li>• The rate and extent of chemical change</li><li>• Organic chemistry</li><li>• Chemical analysis</li><li>• Chemistry of the atmosphere</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forces</li><li>• Energy</li><li>• Waves</li><li>• Electricity</li><li>• Magnetism and electromagnetism</li><li>• Particle model of matter</li><li>• Atomic structure</li></ul>

There are also 16 key practical experiments that students must study.

How will I be assessed?

**Six papers:** two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each will assess different topics.

**Duration:** all the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes.

**Tiers:** Foundation and Higher.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

A/S & A2 courses including Sciences.

Science GCSE is also required for some jobs as a ‘core’ subject (e.g. Teaching) even if it is not studied to a further level.



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Science GCSE is also required for some jobs as a ‘core’ subject (e.g. Teaching) even if it is not studied to a further level.

# Triple Science

## Course information

All students will study a core science known as GCSE Trilogy. Some students with a strong interest in science may wish to study separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

In addition to core science students will learn the following topics at a greater depth:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cell biology</li><li>• Organisation</li><li>• Infection and response</li><li>• Bioenergetics</li><li>• Homeostasis and response</li><li>• Inheritance, variation and evolution</li><li>• Ecology</li></ul> <p>There are also 8 key practical experiments that students must study.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Atomic structure and the periodic table</li><li>• Bonding, structure and the properties of matter</li><li>• Quantitative chemistry</li><li>• Chemical changes</li><li>• Energy changes</li><li>• The rate and extent of chemical change</li><li>• Organic chemistry</li></ul> <p>There are also 8 key practical experiments that students must study.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forces</li><li>• Energy</li><li>• Waves</li><li>• Electricity</li><li>• Magnetism and electromagnetism</li><li>• Particle model of matter</li><li>• Atomic structure</li><li>• Space physics</li></ul>

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Demonstrate a good level of interest and ability in Science.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.