

Warminster School

GCSE Prospectus

2022 – 2024



Contents	Page
General Information	3
 Subject Details	
Core	
English Language	5
English Literature	6
English as an Additional Language	8
Mathematics	9
Sciences; Biology	10
Chemistry	12
Physics	14
Modern Languages: French, German, Spanish	16
 Options	
Art	19
Business	20
Computer Science	21
Design Technology	22
Drama	24
Geography	25
History	26
Music	27
Photography	29
Physical Education	30
Religious Studies	31

General Information

The aim of this booklet is to inform pupils and parents about the curriculum in Years 10 and 11 and to provide some guidance for choosing options.

All pupils will follow courses to GCSE in the core subjects of English, both language and literature, and Mathematics. We strongly recommend that pupils choose two science disciplines and a Modern Foreign Language as three of their six option choices, however this is merely a recommendation. Pupils will follow a Science programme leading to the award of up to three separate GCSEs and have to choose at least one Science. Pupils may study German, French or Spanish unless they are following our full Learning Support programme and do not wish to study a language, or are one of the small group of overseas pupils who will continue with the English as an Additional Language programme. In some circumstances pupils requiring only one or two learning support lessons, and who have studied a language at KS3, can follow the GCSE programme. Please contact the Head of Learning Support for further details.

In total, pupils will choose six option choices from the available subjects. Information about these and all other courses is set out in detail later in this prospectus.

Most pupils will, therefore, take nine full GCSEs: English, English Literature, Mathematics and a further six option choices.

GCSE Reforms

As I'm sure you have heard, GCSEs have been reformed over recent years with all subjects from September 2017 following new specifications. The new exams are intended to contain more content, be more demanding and include more extended writing. All GCSEs have now changed to the new format, which also includes a revamped grading system using numbers (9-1) not letters (A*-G). Under the revised system, a grade 4 is equivalent to the bottom of a grade C, with a grade 5 representing a position between the top of grade C and the bottom of grade B. Grades 8 and 9 will reflect current A* standard. There are now two pass levels; a Level 4 is classed as a 'Standard Pass' and a Level 5 a 'Strong Pass'.

Option Subjects

BIOLOGY

CHEMISTRY

PHYSICS

FRENCH

GERMAN

SPANISH

All pupils will select at least one Science subject. Most pupils will opt for two Science subjects, leaving them with the choice of three options from the list below. Those choosing one Science may choose four from the list below and those choosing all three Science subjects may choose two from the list below.

.....

Pupils are strongly advised to choose one Language from these three. Pupils may also choose a second language from this list if they wish.

.....

GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

We recommend that all pupils choose at least one of these three humanity subjects. It is possible to take two.

.....

BUSINESS STUDIES

COMPUTER SCIENCE

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

ART

DRAMA

MUSIC

PHOTOGRAPHY

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

.....

Option 7

Alongside the suite of nine GCSE subjects, pupils also have dedicated learning time in their timetable for a seventh option. These are one-year courses aimed at providing further breadth, often in non-assessed areas, although some come with qualifications attached. Option seven choices in Year 10 include:

- GCSE Short Course in RS
- Sports Leader Qualification
- Engineering (Non-assessed)
- Learning Support lesson
- Private study

In Year 11, pupils have the option of choosing:

- GCSE Further Maths
- Higher Project Qualification (HPQ)
- Learning support lesson
- Private study

The HPQ is an independent project on a topic of their choice and is awarded equivalent to the FPQ that the pupils study in Year 9.

Other Courses

All pupils follow a non-examination course in Life Skills. The Careers Department and Tutors also combine to give pupils a lot of support and advice. At this stage pupils are given the opportunity to take part in the 'Preview' Careers Questionnaires, leading to a valuable individual careers report.

Tiering in GCSE examinations

Some subjects will be examined through a **foundation tier** covering grades 5 – 1 and a **higher tier** covering grades 9 – 4. Tiering provides pupils with the opportunity to show what they know and understand by presenting them with question papers that are targeted at a band of attainment. Details of the tiering for subjects can be found on the subject page.

Making your GCSE Choices: Pupils and parents will be able to find out more information on each of the GCSE courses over the course of the next term and they are strongly encouraged to discuss GCSEs with their current teachers and/or Heads of Department. Pupils will be issued with an options form in January which will be due back to us by Monday 28th February.

The form asks you to indicate your preferred choice of subjects. With a free choice it may not be possible or sensible to satisfy all combinations so **we would be grateful if you could indicate one or two reserve choices**. Room is provided to allow you to make any further comments or requests.

Mr M Sully
Deputy Head (Academic)
November 2021

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Pupils will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Pupils will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes. This course sets out to ensure that pupils can read fluently and write effectively. Pupils will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysing texts.

GCSE English Language is designed on the basis that pupils should read and be assessed on high-quality, challenging texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Each text studied must represent a substantial piece of writing, making significant demands on students in terms of content, structure and the quality of language. The texts, across a range of genres and types, should support pupils in developing their own writing by providing effective models. The texts must include literature and extended literary non-fiction, and other writing such as essays, reviews and journalism (both printed and online). Texts that are essentially transient, such as instant news feeds, must not be included. The number and types of texts, and their length, are not prescribed

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

The specification will enable pupils of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

All pupils.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

This course is examined at the end of two years with exams (AQA) and some coursework (IGCSE).

For further information on this subject please speak to Miss Croot

ENGLISH LITERATURE

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Through literature, pupils have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. Studying GCSE English Literature should encourage pupils to read widely for pleasure, and as a preparation for studying literature at a higher level. This course should also encourage pupils to:

- read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, and make connections across their reading
- read in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas
- develop the habit of reading widely and often
- appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage
- write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English
 - acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including the grammatical terminology and other literary and linguistic terms they need to criticise and analyse what they read.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

You will study a range of literature which may include, but is not limited to: Shakespeare, Dickens, Stevenson and Priestley. You will also study a wide range of poetry too. You will also develop the following skills through the course:

Reading comprehension and reading critically

- *literal and inferential comprehension*: understanding a word, phrase or sentence in context; exploring aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings; distinguishing between what is stated explicitly and what is implied; explaining motivation, sequence of events, and the relationship between actions or events
- *critical reading*: identifying the theme and distinguishing between themes; supporting a point of view by referring to evidence in the text; recognising the possibility of and evaluating different responses to a text; using understanding of writers' social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation; making an informed personal response that derives from analysis and evaluation of the text
- *evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features*: analysing and evaluating how language, structure, form and presentation contribute to quality and impact; using linguistic and literary terminology for such evaluation
- *comparing texts*: comparing and contrasting texts studied, referring where relevant to theme, characterisation, context (where known), style and literary quality; comparing two texts critically with respect to the above

Writing

- *producing clear and coherent text*: writing effectively about literature for a range of purposes such as: to describe, explain, summarise, argue, analyse and evaluate; discussing and maintaining a point of view; selecting and emphasising key points; using relevant quotation and using detailed textual references
- *accurate Standard English*: accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

All pupils.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

100% exam (AQA) and some coursework for the IGCSE

For further information on this subject please speak to Miss Croot

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Pupils from overseas, who need improved fluency in English, receive expert tuition in all skills in small groups, where their specific areas of need are addressed. The pupils are prepared for different Cambridge exams, depending on their level, in Year 10. In Year 11, they are either prepared for the IGCSE in English as a Second Language (Edexcel) or Cambridge exam, depending on the personal circumstances.

The IGCSE in English as a Second Language (Edexcel) exam tests the key skills of Reading, Writing and Listening. Pupils may choose to take an optional Oral Test. The result of this is endorsed separately. Edexcel's International GCSE in English as a Second Language has been primarily designed as a qualification for pupils who are either obtaining their secondary education through English as a medium of instruction, or who are studying English in order to enhance their future educational or employment prospects.

As mentioned above, we offer the opportunity for our pupils to sit Cambridge exams if required, for example PET, FCE and IELTS. Cross-curricula support is given, as and when necessary in consultation with subject teachers, who are supportive and encouraging, as they recognise and accept the challenges for our international learners.

Mrs E Sustekova Mudra
Head of English as an Additional Language

MATHEMATICS IGCSE (Edexcel)

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Knowledge of topics, studied in previous years, is extended within the areas defined by the National Curriculum.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

Revision of fundamental concepts continues, and it is usually during this part of the course that pupils begin to appreciate the reasoning behind the methods they use. As the pupils mature, they learn how topics and skills, they were introduced to earlier, can be developed to cope with a greater range of problems. The context in which skills are applied becomes wider and pupils are encouraged to recognise the connections between concepts. As pupils prepare for the written papers, they learn how to identify problems quickly and to solve them by co-ordinating several skills within the one solution.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

All pupils are capable of accessing the IGCSE in Mathematics, working towards the Higher or Foundation Tier.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

You will be entered for either the Higher (9-4) or Foundation (5-1) tier depending on how your progress through the course. Both tiers have two 2 hour papers, for which calculators are permitted for use in every paper.

For further information on this subject please speak to Mr Hill

BIOLOGY (EDEXCEL)

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Biology is the science of living organisms, including animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms; their interactions with each other and with the environment. The study of Biology involves collecting and interpreting information about the natural world in order to identify patterns and relate cause to effect and form to function. Biological information is used to help humans improve their own lives and strive to create a sustainable world for future generations.

This qualification (IBIO) has been designed to foster an interest and fascination for Biology. It is designed to help pupils develop curiosity about the natural world, and to enable them to appreciate the value of Biology to everyday life. We hope that our pupils will be inspired, motivated and challenged.

The GCSE in Biology requires pupils to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of working scientifically. Working scientifically will be assessed through examination and the completion of the eight core practical experiments completed throughout the course.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

Key concepts in biology

- Microscopes, Cells, Specialised cells, Bacteria, Enzymes, Biochemicals, Osmosis, Active Transport

Cells and control

- Mitosis, Growth, Stem Cells, The Brain, The Nervous System, The Eye, The reflex arc

Genetics

- Reproduction, Meiosis, DNA, Protein Synthesis, Mutations in DNA, Mendel, Alleles, Inheritance, Blood groups, Variation

Natural selection and genetic modification

- Human Evolution, Darwin and Russell-Wallace, Classification, Breeds, Tissue Culture, Gene Modification, Fertilisers, Biological Control

Health, disease and the development of medicines

- Health, Disease, Alcohol, Cardiovascular Disease, Pathogens, Viruses, Plant Defences, Barriers to Infection, Immune System, Antibiotics, Monoclonal Antibodies

Plants structures and their functions

- Photosynthesis, Absorption, Transpiration, Translocation, Leaf Structure, Plant Hormones

Animal coordination, control and homeostasis

- Hormones, Metabolic Rate, Menstrual Cycle, Blood Glucose, Diabetes, Thermoregulation, Osmoregulation, Kidney

Exchange and transport in animals

- Surface area to volume ratio, Alveoli, Gas exchange, Diffusion, Circulation, Heart, Respiration

Ecosystems and material cycles

- Ecosystems, Energy Transfer, Abiotic and Biotic Factors, Quadrats and Transects, Pollution, Parasitism and Mutualism, Biodiversity, Food security, Water Cycle, Carbon Cycle, Nitrogen Cycle, Decomposition, Compost

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

The course is suitable for anyone who has an interest in Biology and the natural world. It is especially suitable for those thinking of taking an A-level in Biology or studying Biology with the International Baccalaureate.

Biology at GCSE will provide an opportunity to gain a good understanding across a broad range of rich and relevant topics.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

- There are two papers and both are 1 hour and 45 minutes long. The papers are out of 100 marks each, and consist of ten questions. Students must answer all questions.
- Both will include multiple-choice, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.
- Both are available at foundation tier and higher tier.
- The foundation tier paper will target grades 1–5.
- The higher tier paper will target grades 4–9.

For further information on this subject please speak to Mrs Tamasine Reynolds

CHEMISTRY

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Having chemistry knowledge is important – what you have learnt at KS3 will help you progress in chemistry GCSE. It is also important that you have a good grasp of mathematical concepts.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

- Formula and equations
- hazards and risks
- atomic structure
- the periodic table
- ionic compounds
- simple molecular substances
- giant covalent substances
- metals and non-metals calculations
- states of matter
- separation and purification
- acids and alkalis
- salts
- electrolysis
- obtaining and using metals
- reversible reactions and equilibrium
- transition metals alloys and corrosion
- fertilisers
- industrial processes
- chemical cells and fuel cells
- group 1 - the alkali metals
- group 7 - halogens
- group 0 -the noble gases
- rates of reaction
- heat energy changes in chemical reactions
- fuels
- Earth and atmospheric science
- test for ions
- hydrocarbons
- polymers
- alcohols and carboxylic acids
- nano - particles
- bulk materials

Working scientifically

The GCSE in Chemistry requires pupils to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of working scientifically. Working scientifically will be assessed through examination and the completion of the eight core practicals.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

A student who enjoys finding things out and has a love of chemistry. Anyone who is thinking about becoming a vet or going into medicine needs to study chemistry. Chemistry is regarded highly and will allow progression into many areas.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?**Papers 1 and 2:**

- Both assessments are 1 hour and 45 minutes long, are out of 100 marks each and consist of ten questions. Pupils must answer all questions.
- Both consist of a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. Calculators may be used in the examination.
- The higher tier paper targets grades 4-9, the foundation tier paper targets grades 1-5.
- 27 marks on each paper will be from overlap questions that appear in both the foundation and higher tier papers.

For further information on this subject please speak to Kate Langdown

PHYSICS

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Physics can provide a pathway to a huge number of careers, from engineering, to medicine, architecture, IT, business, finance, research, and communications amongst many, many others. The problem-solving and analytical skills of a physicist are highly prized.

Our knowledge of physics makes the world today possible, from phones to rockets, MRI scanners, computers, light bulbs, TVs and lasers; and will be fundamental to solving the problems faced by your generation in the future.

Everything that you need to know will be taught during the course. What you need to be able to do is to be curious, ask questions and be determined to try to understand how the Universe works. Don't worry, though – we take it a quantum at a time!

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

Physics seeks to explain how everything in the Universe works, from tiny sub-atomic particles, all the way up to.... the Multiverse?

The GCSE syllabus considers all aspects of classical physics, including forces, energy, waves, particle theory, magnetism, nuclear physics and space physics. The course provides an excellent grounding for anyone planning to pursue one of the many careers which it leads to, but also for those not yet sure about their future plans; it offers great flexibility.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Physics is suitable for pupils with a love of learning new things, a tenacious desire to understand the nature of reality, and a first-rate work ethic. An enjoyment of maths would be helpful, too!

The attributes that will help you to succeed:

- Curiosity, determination and enthusiasm;
- A willingness to give things a go, make mistakes and try again;
- An ability to think logically;
- Good maths skills; and
- An enthusiasm for solving problems and finding out how things work.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

GCSE Physics is a linear qualification. Assessment consists of two papers, available at foundation tier or higher tier. Pupils must complete both exams in the same tier and in May/June in a single year.

Both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes long and are out of 100 marks. The foundation tier paper targets grades at 1–5; the higher tier paper targets grades 4–9. 40% of the marks will test

pupils' ability to apply their knowledge in unfamiliar contexts.

Content assessed in Paper 1 Topics 1 – 4: energy; electricity; the particle model of matter; and atomic structure.

Content assessed in Paper 2 Topics 5 – 8: forces; waves; magnetism and electromagnetism; and space physics.

Practical assessment Questions in the written exams draw on the knowledge and understanding pupils have gained by carrying out practical activities. These questions account for at least 15% of the overall marks.

For further information on this subject please speak to the Head of Physics, Mr Moxham.

FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH (Edexcel IGCSE)

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Pupils should have prior knowledge of the language and a basic understanding of the rules of the language. An ability to listen, speak, read and write in the language chosen is required. Ideally pupils will be able to use three tenses and have a reasonable level of vocabulary which they have acquired during their previous language lessons.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

This qualification comprises three external assessments: Paper 1 (Listening) is worth 25% of the IGCSE qualification, Paper 2 (Reading and Writing) is worth 50% and Paper 3 (Speaking) is worth 25% of the IGCSE qualification.

This qualification enables students to:

- develop understanding and use of written forms of the target language, in a range of familiar and practical contexts, and for a variety of purposes
- develop understanding and use of the spoken forms of the target language, in a range of familiar and practical contexts, and for a variety of purposes
- develop the ability to communicate effectively in the target language through the written word, using a range of vocabulary and structures
- develop the ability to communicate effectively in the target language through speaking, using a range of vocabulary and structures
- develop a knowledge and understanding of the target language grammar and its practical application
- develop a knowledge and understanding of countries and communities where the target language is spoken
- develop positive attitudes towards modern foreign language learning
- acquire a suitable foundation for further study of the target language, or another language.

The syllabus content will revolve around a study of the following **topic areas**:

- Home and abroad
- Education and Employment
- Personal Life and Relationships
- The World Around Us
- Social activities, fitness and health

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

The qualification is designed primarily for pupils who are studying the language in order to Enhance their future education or employment prospects. Pupils at this level are expected to understand the main points of familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc., and can deal with most situations likely to arise while travelling in an area where the language is spoken. They can produce simple, connected text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest, and can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions, and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

Listening

The listening assessment is a 30-minute examination paper set and marked by Edexcel, plus five minutes' reading time.

The total number of marks for the paper is 40.

The examination will cover a range of topic areas selected from those listed above. The examination will consist of several short recordings.

Students will have five minutes' reading time to read through the paper and familiarise themselves with it before the recordings are played. The recordings, each of which will be heard twice, will last no longer than 30 minutes including pauses. All texts will be spoken by French/German/Spanish speakers.

Students will be required to listen to a range of factual and non-factual material of varying lengths, in different contexts and in different registers.

Reading and Writing

Assessment is through an examination paper lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes, set and marked by Edexcel.

The total number of marks for the paper is 80, with 40 marks for reading and 40 marks for writing.

Students will be required to read a range of authentic factual and non-factual written material of varying length, in different registers and contexts, and from different sources. These may include advertisements, short passages, letters, information leaflets, faxes, emails, website pages, newspaper and magazine articles. The texts will be related to the topic areas listed above.

In the first extended writing task (question 6), students will be required to write about 60-75 words in the target language, with a selection of vocabulary given to guide the candidate. The response will be assessed for communication and content and knowledge and application of language.

For the second piece of more challenging extended writing (question 7), students will select **one** writing task from a choice of three. They will be expected to write a continuous response, of about 130- 150 words, in the target language.

Question 8 is a grammar-based task which requires candidates to complete a text with the correct grammatical form of verbs or adjectives.

Speaking

The speaking test will recognise the achievement of the student in speaking the target language.

The test will be divided into **three** tasks:

Task A: 2-3 minutes - Discussion based on a single picture

Task B: 3 – 3.5 minutes - Conversation 1

Task C: 3-3.5 minutes - Conversation 2

Maximum eight minutes.

The total number of marks for the paper is 40 marks.

Students will take part in conversations with the centre-appointed interviewer on **two** separate topic areas. These topic areas will be different from the topic area chosen by the student for Task A.

No dictionaries will be permitted for any of the papers.

The IGCSE course will be primarily concerned with both the reception and transmission of messages and information in the foreign language, using material which is authentic and realistic. Indeed, as far as possible, the language material encountered by the student will be the everyday material he/she would normally expect to encounter and use whilst staying in the foreign country.

For further information on this subject please speak to Mrs Coldwell

ART – Fine Art

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

- The best foundation for success in GCSE Art is an interest and enthusiasm in the subject.
- An aptitude for the subject - if you are creative or good at drawing you should have the basic skills to succeed.
- GCSE Art is not an easy option and you should be prepared to work hard at developing your abilities.
- You should have an understanding of the basic elements of art - colour, tone, form etc, and some understanding of the place art, craft and design in the world.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

You will learn to:

- Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

- Students who wish to undertake A Level or IB Visual Arts.
- Students who are looking to take up careers for which an art background is relevant.
- Students who have an interest in and aptitude for the subject.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

Component 1: Portfolio (60%)

Pupils create a portfolio of practical work showing their personal response to a starting point or theme.

Component 2: Externally Set Task (40%)

Pupils will produce practical work based on the exam paper theme and realise their intentions in a 10 hour supervised time period.

For further information on this subject please speak to Mrs Louisa Clayton Head of Art

BUSINESS

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

There is no required knowledge before taking Business. Pupils need to be able to write coherently and be able to cope with basic calculations.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

The course is designed to give students a sound understanding of business and the ability to use knowledge, skills and understanding appropriately in the context of varied business situations.

- **Business activity and influences on business** – examines the objectives of businesses, the changing environment and the criteria for judging success. The focus is on the importance of having clear business objectives and how the business environment provides opportunities for, and imposes constraints upon, the pursuit of those objectives.
- **People in business** – looks at people in organisations focusing on their roles, relationships and management in business.
- **Business finance** – explores the use of accounting and financial information as an aid to decision making.
- **Marketing** – focuses on identifying and satisfying customer needs in a changing and competitive international environment.
- **Business operations** – examines the way organisations use and manage resources to produce goods and services.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Business is suitable for students who have an interest in how businesses operate and how/why they make decisions. Students need to be prepared to offer their own ideas and to justify their ideas.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

The course is examined at the end of the course through two 90 minute exams. Both examinations are made up of a range of questions from multiple choice, short answer and longer length answers. There is no controlled assessment/coursework.

For further information on this subject please speak to Adam Jacob, Head of Economics and Business

COMPUTER SCIENCE IGCSE (Cambridge)

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Knowledge of topics, studied in previous years, is extended within the areas defined by the National Curriculum.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

Those studying IGCSE Computer Science will, among other things, develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies; learn about algorithms; computational thinking; become independent users of technology; work collaboratively; evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs; discuss the impact of technology in society. Pupils will also learn the *Python* programming language.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Those who enjoy problem-solving and applying the use of computers to help solve real-world issues and problems would be suitable to study Computer Science.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Theory of computer science <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data representation• Communication technologies• Hardware• Software• Security• Ethics	Paper 1 (1 hour 45 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theory• 75 marks• Short answer and structured answer questions• No calculators	60% of total IGCSE
Problem-solving and Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Algorithm design• Programming• Databases	Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50 marks• 20 marks from pre-release material• No calculators	40% of total IGCSE

For further information on this subject please speak to Mr Hill.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

There is no prior subject knowledge required in order to start this course, however, pupils who have previously studied Design and Technology will be at an advantage. Two key skills required are a sound grasp of English and Mathematics. 15% of the marks in the examination are awarded for Mathematical understanding. There is a high level of technical language in the course so a good grasp of the English language is beneficial.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

The course covers the broad spectrum of traditional material areas. In addition pupils will explore new and emerging technologies, and smart and modern materials. On top of the core knowledge, pupils will be able to choose at least one focus area to study in more depth from the following list:

- Electronic systems,
- Metal based materials,
- Papers and boards,
- Polymers,
- Timber based materials.

Combined with this, pupils will also study and examine a wide range of different topics including:

- Computer Aided Design and Manufacture (CAD/CAM),
- Mass-production techniques,
- The relationship between the client, designer and manufacturer,
- What makes products successful.

During the first year of the course students will complete design and make assignments to extend their skills and knowledge and to prepare them for their major projects in the second year of the course. Structured guidance is given to each pupil to ensure that they can reach their potential and enjoy the project work. Pupils are very proud of their work and are keen to take their projects home. The major project will be based on a context released by AQA in the summer of the first year of the course and contributes 50% of the final GCSE grade. Throughout the course, pupils learn about the tools, techniques and technology with which they need to work. This information is examined at the end of the course and counts for 50% of the final GCSE grade.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course is ideally suited to pupils with an enquiring mind who are keen to get stuck in. Many pupils assume that Design and Technology is just about making stuff. The subject is about so much more than that and the pupils will get an opportunity to examine the place they have in the real world and designers and consumers, scrutinising the decisions they make and the impact of those decisions on the world around them. This course suits pupils who are self-aware and secure as independent learners.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

Pupils will be issued with the relevant support materials. The Design Centre is well equipped with computers, a CNC router, PCB (Printed Circuit Board) manufacturing facilities, 3D printers, a sublimation machine, CNC vinyl cutters, a laser cutter, hot metalwork area, a comprehensive selection of portable and static machines and other specialised processing equipment. During this course students will be charged for the materials they use.

This course is very well supported by an excellent textbook split into easy to follow chapters, each of which is full of exam style questions that the publishers have presented answers for. The textbook and the answers link to AQA's published specification and are fully supported by AQA. The course will follow directly on from the work completed in Year 9 and there is opportunity for further study at A Level.

There will be a two hour long examination, the content of which is split between core knowledge, specialist knowledge, and designing and making principles. 15% of the marks for this paper are made up of content specifically designed to assess Mathematical capability. The examination is worth 50% of the overall grade.

The remaining 50% of the overall grade is made up of the Non-Examined Assessment. This is a forty hour design and make activity that is completed at School during lesson time. It is marked internally and then moderated externally.

For further information on this subject please speak to Mr. S. P. Rossiter

DRAMA iGCSE – Cambridge International

Drama gives pupils the opportunity to explore the subject from a range of perspectives by devising their own, original work; by bringing to life the work of a playwright; developing their own thoughts on what makes drama and theatre successful; and as creative artists building and bringing a character to life through exploration and rehearsal.

Theory and practical work will be integrated throughout the course and all texts studied should be explored practically.

What to expect in the practical component (60% of qualification)

Component 2

Candidates submit:

- one individual performance based on an extract from a play
- one group performance based on an extract from a play
- one group performance based on an original devised piece.

Candidates will work on Component 2 throughout the four terms of the course

What to expect in the exam assessment (40% of qualification)

The exam component will be assessed at the end of the qualification and will be 2 hours and 30 minutes in length. Pupils will have to complete three compulsory sections.

There are three sections and candidates will write about a piece of their own original drama as well as two set texts. The set texts are given to the candidate in November before the examination

How is the qualification marked?

There are four key assessment objectives for the qualification that assess candidates at different points of the creative process:

- When creating and rehearsing;
- When reflecting on how meaning has been communicated on stage;
- When demonstrating their theatrical skill in performance;
- When evaluating their own work or the work of others.

Mrs R Johnson
Director of Drama



GEOGRAPHY

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Key Stage 3 Geography or similar course of study will equip you with the desired subject knowledge as a starting point for GCSE. An interest and understanding of global issues such as climate change, development, the global economic system and changes in industry would be beneficial too. The examinations are a mix of shorter style questions and some are essay based so an ability to write extended evidence based answers is desirable.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

The focus of the GCSE is an understanding of physical processes and factors that produce diverse and dynamic landscapes that change over time. This includes an appreciation of the interdependence of both human physical geography and will result in pupils understanding more about the world, the challenges it faces and their place within it. Students will learn to appreciate the differences and similarities between people, places and cultures leading to an improved understanding of societies and economies. Fieldwork and classwork will encourage questioning, investigation and critical thinking about issues affecting the world and people's lives. Students will use a variety of resources through the GCSE including maps, visual media and GIS software to obtain, present and analyse information.

Geography GCSE will also equip students with essential skills such as problem solving, decision making, synthesising ideas, identifying issues and communicating findings through the undertaking of a fieldwork investigation. There are 2 compulsory days of fieldwork over the two years. The GCSE also ties in well with other subjects such as ICT, the Sciences and Citizenship.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Geography students tend to be problem solvers, enquirers, able to judge opinion and facts and be able to be self-managing in respect of fieldwork and coursework. Critical thinking and an ability to challenge long held beliefs is also key.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

There are three 1 hour 30-minute written examinations. Paper 1 is worth 37.5% and includes "Global Geographical Issues"; Paper 2 is worth 37.5% and includes "UK Geographical Issues", and includes questions on student's fieldwork investigation; Paper 3 is worth 25% and examines "People and Environmental Issues – Making Geographical Decisions).

For further information on this subject please speak to Sarah Roberts.

HISTORY

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

- **Have a passion for the past. This is essential.**
- Have strong English language and literacy skills.
- Have a broad, enquiring and open mind.
- Enjoy arguing and debating – both orally and in writing.
- Enjoy reading, thinking and writing. This is an academic, text-based course.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

In GCSE History you will study four topics, split across two papers:

Paper 1 - Understanding the Modern World

- Section A - Period study
America, 1840-1895: Expansion and consolidation (NEW FOR 2022)
- Section B - Wider world depth study
Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945–1972 (the Cold War)

Paper 2 - Shaping the Nation

- Section A - Thematic study
Britain: Migration, empires and the people: c.790 to the present day
- Section B - British depth study
Elizabethan England, c.1568-1603

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for anyone who has a passion for the past. This is essential. It is also suitable for pupils who enjoy academic analysis, argument, debate, evaluation and judgement making. GCSE History is an academic, text-based course – but it's also an incredibly interesting and rewarding one.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

GCSE History is a linear course. You will sit two 2-hour examinations at the end of Year 11. Questions consist of a range of shorter 4 and 8-mark questions to longer 12 and 20-mark extended writing essay questions. There is no coursework in GCSE History.

For further information about GCSE History, please speak to or email Mr Kirby, Head of History and Politics: dkirby@warminsterschool.org.uk.

MUSIC (Edexcel)

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

All GCSE Music pupils are expected to participate fully in all musical aspects of the School. The ability to read music is a requirement due to the listening and analysing aspect of the paper. All pupils taking GCSE Music need to be taking regular instrumental and/or vocal lessons.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

The Scheme of Assessment comprises **three** units.

Unit 1: Performing Music

Candidates develop their performing skills in both a solo and ensemble context. It encourages pupils to develop creative thinking, aesthetic sensitivity, critical awareness, self-confidence, self-motivation and their own musical interests and skills.

Unit 2: Composing Music

Composing music emphasises the creative aspect of music and allows pupils to appreciate the process of creating music.

Unit 3: Music – Listening and Appraising

A listening exam in which pupils will be examined on musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.

The areas of study are:

Instrumental Music 1700–1820

- J S Bach: 3rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D major
- L van Beethoven: 1st Movement from Piano Sonata no. 8 in C minor 'Pathétique'

Vocal Music

- H Purcell: Music for a While
- Queen: Killer Queen (from the album 'Sheer Heart Attack')

Music for Stage and Screen

- S Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of Wicked)
- J Williams: Main title/rebel blockade runner from the soundtrack to Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope

Fusions

- Afro Celt Sound System: Release (from the album 'Volume 2: Release')
- Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album 'Esperanza')

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

The GCSE course in Music is an ideal choice for those who have a fundamental enthusiasm for music in all its forms. The specification aims to encourage music responsiveness, creativity and a strong sense of stylistic awareness by means of involvement in three main units of the

course; furthermore, it comprises sufficient flexibility to enable a tailor-made course for each individual pupil.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

Unit 1: Performing Music (30%)

Each candidates should perform two different pieces:

1. A solo performance on any instrument or voice, lasting no more than 5 minutes
2. An ensemble performance

The unit is assessed internally and externally moderated.

Unit 2: Composing Music (30%)

Each candidate needs to compose two pieces of music each based on a different Area of Study. The total length of submission (i.e. both pieces) should not be more than 4 minutes. Pupils are allotted 10 hours of supervised time to complete each composition, which will be internally marked and externally moderated.

Unit 3: Music – Listening and Appraising (40%)

The paper is made up of two sections and is out of a total of 80 marks.

Section A: Six questions related to six of the eight set works

- One short melody/rhythm completion exercise
- One question on an unfamiliar piece (skeleton score provided) with questions on its musical elements, musical contexts and musical language

Section B – Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece

- One question that asks students to compare and/or evaluate the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language of one set work with one unfamiliar piece of music
- A CD with the music extracts will be played to all students at the same time and will repeat the extracts a set number of times.

For further information on this subject please speak to Caroline Robinson.

PHOTOGRAPHY

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Having undertaken a course of study in Art at Key Stage 3 you will have gained the skills and mind-set to undertake GCSE Photography. A willingness to embrace the subject both technically and creatively is all that is required, all the methods and processes will be taught giving you the skills to undertake each of the Components that make up the GCSE

You will need to provide your own DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) camera to undertake this course.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

You will learn to...

Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Anyone that that wishes to express himself or herself creatively.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

Pupils will explore and develop skills, knowledge and understanding through the application of digital techniques and processes.

Component 1: Portfolio (60%)

Pupils create a portfolio of photographic work showing their personal response to a starting point or theme.

Component 2: Externally Set Task (40%)

Pupils will produce photographic work based on the exam paper theme and realise their intentions in a 10 hour supervised time period.

For further information on this subject please speak to Mr Palma

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (AQA)

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

It would be useful to have some knowledge of the human body prior to starting this course. Some previous interest/ experience in sport would also be an advantage.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

This course views sport from various different perspectives. Over the course of the two years, students will evaluate different factors which impact performance and participation sport and physical activity; specifically:

1. Applied anatomy and physiology
2. Movement analysis
3. Physical training
5. Sports psychology
6. Socio-cultural influences
7. Health, fitness and wellbeing

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course would suit individuals who have an interest in how the body works and a passion for sport and physical activity. Students enjoy moving onto science and sport related pathways for post 16 education from this course, in particularly the A level or Cambridge technical pathways here at Warminster.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

This course consists of two exams and a piece of coursework. The two exams cover the aforementioned topic list and are weighted at 60% of the course (30% each). Each exam is 75 minutes long and are taken in the final half term of year 11. The coursework element of the course is weighted at 40%. This includes practical sports performance as well as an analysis and evaluation module. Each student will perform in three sport (at least 1 individual and 1 team) and will be graded on technical competency as well as game effectiveness. The practical sports account for 30% of the GCSE course. The other 10% is assessed via written coursework. Students are required to analyse and evaluate a sports performance in the form of a written assignment.

For further information on this subject please speak to Sam Loud (sloud@warminsterschool.org.uk)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES iGCSE

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You will need to have an interest in philosophy and ethics, and the impact religious communities have on these two areas of thought. You must be prepared to be able to develop critical thinking, reasoned answers and an understanding of both religious and non-religious views of the world.

What will I learn on this GCSE course?

Designed to inspire – The specification includes exciting content that explores The Universe, Creation and the Place of Human Beings, Life and Death, Peace and Conflict Rights, Equality and Social Justice among other things from a Christian perspective. From discussing beliefs about ethics, to discussing what people believe about the afterlife, Religious Studies enables pupils to think for themselves with respect to the big questions.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Skills for today's world – Religious Studies can open up the possibility of in-depth debate, which leads to critical evaluation and analysis. Increasingly the skills and content taught through Religious Studies are required in fields as diverse as journalism, medicine, law, social work and the worlds of business and politics. Religious Studies is an academic subject which has a high status in the UK. If you like discussion and debate, as well as the ability to write critically and convincingly, this is the course for you.

What assessments will I have to take to get my qualification?

Straightforward assessment – It has a simple, clear assessment structure that consists of two written examinations and no coursework or controlled assessments.

Paper 1: Beliefs and Values (60% of the total International GCSE)

This paper assesses knowledge and understanding of four key topic areas from Christianity

- Section 1: The Universe, Creation and the Place of Human Beings
- Section 2: Life and Death
- Section 3: Peace and Conflict
- Section 4: Rights, Equality and Social Justice.

Assessment is through a 1-hour 45-minute examination paper set and marked by Pearson.

Paper 2: The Religious Community (40% of the total International GCSE)

This paper assesses knowledge and understanding of three key topic areas from Christianity

- Section 1: Origins and their Impact on the Community
- Section 2: Celebration and Pilgrimage
- Section 3: Worship and Practice

Assessment is through a 1-hour 30-minute examination paper set and marked by Pearson

For further information on this subject please speak to Mr Jenkins, Head of Department