



ER 1597

ALDENHAM SCHOOL

Elstree, Hertfordshire

GCSE

**A Guide to Courses
2016-2018**

The Academic Programme at GCSE

Pupils at Aldenham study a number of important **Compulsory Subjects** and choose **additional Optional Subjects** to broaden their learning and provide a firm foundation for further study.

The Compulsory Subjects are:

English leading to IGCSEs in English Language & Literature

Science: Taught as three separate sciences leading to two or three IGCSEs.

Mathematics leading to one or two GCSEs.

These occupy 50% of curriculum time. The remaining time is taken up by

Option Subjects

We recommend that students choose four subjects as follows:

- 1 Continue with their Modern Foreign Language
- 1 Humanity (History, Geography, RS, & Classical Civilisation)
- 1 Creative or Performance based subject
(Art, Design Technology, Computer Science, PE, Dance, Music, Drama)

- 1 Free choice from the following list of subjects:

Religious Studies

Physical Education

Computer Science

Art

Drama

Classical Civilisation

Spanish

French

German

Latin

History

Geography

Music

Dance

Design Technology (Graphics)

Design Technology (Textiles)

Design Technology (Resistant Materials)

Making Choices at GCSE

Pupils are given extensive guidance on options for GCSE, as this is often the first time they have had a choice of which subjects to study. Whilst making a decision can be difficult, doing so is just as much part of the pupil's education. Life outside of school will require informed and considered decision-making.

Choices should be made in the light of individual advice given by Housemasters, Tutors, Head of subject and subject teachers. Aldenham offers excellent careers advice, and pupils should consult with the Head of Careers, Mr R.P. Collins, if they have a particular career pathway in mind. The Director of Studies, Mr D.S. Watts, may also be consulted should any difficulties emerge in discussions elsewhere.

Every effort will be made to accommodate provisional choices. If a pupil wishes to change his choices we will endeavour to make it possible. However no guarantees can be given that a particular combination requested will be possible. In the event of a subject becoming over or under subscribed, it may become necessary for an individual to be invited to choose an alternative.

The subjects are described alphabetically later on in this booklet. The symbol (©) indicates a compulsory subject,

Art and Design

Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification Number: 2 FA01

Art and Design at Aldenham aims to develop visual perception and understanding, including analytical thinking, creative, imaginative and practical skills for working in art, craft and design. It will encourage visual literacy and understanding, through practical and critical responses to assignments set in art, craft and design.

Students should enjoy being creative and be passionate about Art and Design. Through their work, pupils will develop their special aptitudes and skills that will encourage confidence, enthusiasm and visual analysis. Pupils will undertake work in the following disciplines: Drawing & Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking and Mixed Media.

The method of assessment for GCSE is weighted 60% for 2 coursework assignments and 40% on the external exam assignment. Coursework consists of two projects that should demonstrate observational skills, research, development, critical analysis, artist research, refinement and realisation of a final piece. Students will complete a sculpture project and a painting project, both projects are supported by visits to various galleries and museums. The exam unit consists of a 6 week preparatory period to research and develop ideas and produce a set of supporting studies leading to a final piece. The final piece is created in a 10 hour timed examination. There is no written exam.

Head of Department: Miss E. Lang

Classical Subjects

Classical Civilisation

Examination Board: OCR
Specification Number: J280

GCSE Classical Civilisation is suitable for any student who has an interest in the Ancient World, and previous experience of the subject is not required. This course provides a fascinating exploration of the culture of ancient societies through the study of texts and topics and an insight into the continuing importance of the Classical Greek and Roman civilisations. Through the range of topics, students acquire an understanding of the civilisations in their historical, cultural and social context and learn to develop and articulate a personal response to literature in translation and historical evidence.

Classical civilisation is a very enjoyable subject that explores some of the central foundations of today's society. The course helps students to enrich their own thinking, writing and speaking, and allows them to develop and enhance their key transferable skills of analysis and communication, by evaluating issues and structuring responses to a range of historical and literary material.

**Assessment consists of 4 units –
3 examined papers:**

City Life in the Classical World (*usually the "Rome" option is taken*)

Epic and Myth (*usually the "Odyssey" option is taken*)

Community Life in the Classical World (*usually the "Sparta" option is taken*)

1 controlled assessment unit, completed in the Lent term of the exam year:

Culture and Society in the Classical World (*usually the "Olympic Games" option is taken*)

Latin Language and Literature

Examination Board: WJEC
Specification Number: 9521, 9524, 9541, 9542

Latin at GCSE level is suitable for students who have studied the language into Year 9. Latin still has significant value and relevance, with students usually demonstrating a strong academic reputation across a range of areas. The study of the language helps develop analytical ability as well as a sensitivity to and understanding of the use of English and other modern European languages. In addition, students learn how to respond to original literature and to understand the cultural context within which it was produced.

The current specification involves both Language and Literature elements, which are taken as two separate Level 2 Certificates, the equivalent of two GCSE's, and are recognised as such by Universities. The Literature Certificate involves reading short excerpts and a longer narrative from some of the best Latin literature of the Classical period, in unadulterated original form, with the help of a translation and notes.

For the Language Certificate, grammatical work is perfected through the analysis of complex Latin sentence construction, along with narrative translation from a range of textbooks which set stories in Pompeii, Roman Britain and other parts of the Roman world. Eventually translation is practised using past papers and other Latin GCSE materials and textbooks.

Head of Department: Mr A.Smith

Computer Science

Examination Board: CIE

Specification Number: 0478

Computer Science IGCSE allows pupils to learn how to program and develops their knowledge of the inner-workings of a computer. The IGCSE in Computer Science is known to be an academically rigorous course and it also provides candidates with more vocationally relevant skills.

An IGCSE in Computer Science is suited to any pupil with aspirations to continue their studies in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics. The course is assessed through two examinations and it has no coursework requirements. The details of each of these examinations are summarised below:

Theory of Computer Science	Written paper worth 60% assessing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer Networking• Hardware• Operating Systems• Security• Ethics• Logic Gates• Data Representation
Practical Problem-solving and Programming	Written paper worth 40% assessing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Algorithms• Programming• Database 40% of the marks are given for answers to questions based upon pre-released material.

Computer Science is ideal for pupils who are numerate, resilient problem solvers and are committed to learning to program computers.

Head of Department: Mr M. J. Scott

Dance

Examination Board: AQA
Specification No: 4232

Why choose Dance?

“Dance is vital, an activity both exhilarating and liberating to watch or do. The instinct to dance is fundamentally joyous and no matter how hard you try you can’t get away from that for long. It can also be a huge force for good, effectively drawing people together and levelling everyone through sheer hard work. It can speed up your heart rate, it can enliven your being, it can change your life”.

Richard Alston CBE, Dance UK

GCSE Dance is an 80% practical subject including both performance and choreography, examined by coursework assessments and a practical examination. There is a written examination at the end of the two year course which accounts for the other 20%. It is largely based around contemporary dance but other dance styles can be incorporated.

Specification at a Glance

Unit 1: Critical Appreciation of Dance

Written Paper – one hour
50 marks – 20%

Unit 2: Set Dance

Practical Examination
Solo Performance – 1–1½ minutes
30 marks – 20%

Unit 3: Performance in a duo/group dance

3 – 3½ minutes
Controlled Assessment
30 marks – 20%

Unit 4: Choreography

Task 1: Solo Composition 1–1½ minutes
20 marks – 15%
Task 2: Choreography – solo/duo/group
40 marks – 25%
Unit total: 60 marks – 40%

Teacher in charge: Mrs L. Gall

Design Technology

Examination Board: Edexcel

**Specification Numbers: 2RM01 (Resistant Materials)
2GR01 (Graphic Products)
2TT01 (Textiles Technology)**

Assessment:

40 hours Major Project/Coursework	60%
1 ¹ / ₂ hours written exam	40%

During the first year, the course is structured to build practical and theoretical knowledge in preparation for year 11. This will involve developing the students' graphical and manufacturing knowledge and their understanding of materials in order to increase their independence and ability to undertake the GCSE coursework. Students will also prepare for the external theory exam throughout year 10 and 11, which will be sat in June 2018.

Work on the compulsory coursework project will commence after the Easter vacation in the first year, 2017. This element is quite demanding but very rewarding for those who rise to the challenge. It is important that students are very organised during this time, and keep to all of the set deadlines. A total time of 40 hours under controlled conditions has been allocated by the external examination board and no extra time can be allowed outside of the normal circumstances. However, research and preparation for the 40 hours of controlled coursework time can be undertaken outside of the classroom.

The format of the course is the same for all three specialisms; however the course content and project outcomes are different;

2RM01 (Resistant Materials)

This course covers primarily wood, metal and plastic. The theory examination involves understanding the application of these primary materials and includes joining, finishing manufacturing methods and industrial practices. Coursework tends to result in a product that 'works', such as media storage/display, disability aids, games, hobbies, security, sports, mechanical aids.

2GR01 (Graphic Products)

Graphic products theory involves wood, metal and plastics mainly from the point of view of packaging, promotional and printed products. Students will be learning about the application of these materials in the world of 'advertising' and design prototyping (including CAD/CAM). The coursework will result in the student making a presentation quality prototype of a product. Due to the nature of the course the product choice is generally 'blue sky' with a real life application/problem solution. Projects include; Architecture, vehicle design, product design (mice / camera / water bottles / fragrance bottle), promotional design (clocks / point of sale / water & ice dispensers) and many more.

2TT01 (Textiles Technology)

This course covers a wide range of topics including sports fashion, casual wear, smart/occasion wear, nightwear, bags and accessories. Over the two years pupils develop a range of creative designing and making skills, technical knowledge and understanding relating to textiles products and invaluable transferable skills such as problem solving and time management. The final outcome is a Textiles based product with a supporting portfolio of designs, research and evaluations. Pupils will also learn skills, such as design development (including CAD/CAM), fabric enhancement, pattern cutting, garment construction and manufacturing of garments and textile products.

Head of Department: Miss S. Nicholl

Drama

Examination Board: AQA
Specification No: 4240

This is a good option for students who enjoy acting and going to the theatre. The course also involves keeping a detailed written logbook.

During the course:-

Students gain confidence and expertise in physical and vocal performance and presentation.

Students develop their critical analysis and evaluation skills with regard to their own work and the work of theatre professionals.

The course divides into 2 practical components and 1 written examination.

Practical 60%:

1. Creating a devised piece of work for performance to an audience.
AND
2. Acting from a scripted, published play for performance to an audience.

Written Examination 40%:

90 minutes

Candidates must answer two questions, one based on response to live productions seen during the course and one on shows they have acted in.

Director of Drama: Ms J. Bannister

English and English Literature (©)

Examination Board: CIE
Specification Number 0500/0522

Candidates study English Language and English Literature over the two years; these are two separate subjects with separate grades awarded. A few pupils in the lowest set concentrate on English Language in order to ensure that they attain as high a standard as possible in the examination. This allows candidates to develop language skills to a sufficiently advanced level.

English Language: The examination papers focus on passages selected from texts and candidates written responses.

Candidates take the following 2 options:

Paper 2: Reading Passages (Extended) 2 hours

Candidates answer three questions on two passages of 600–700 words each, linked by a common theme.

Eligible for Grades A*–E. 50% of total marks.

Paper 3: Directed Writing and Composition 2 hours

Grades A* - E

50% of total marks.

Section 1 – Directed Writing (25 marks)

Candidates read one or more short texts which are printed on the question paper.

They are then asked to use and develop the given information in another form, e.g. a letter, a report, a speech or a dialogue.

Section 2 – Composition (25 marks)

At least two argumentative/discursive, two descriptive, and two narrative titles will be set.

Candidates write on one title only, and write 350–450 words.

**IGCSE English Literature:
Exam Board: Edexcel
Specification 4ET0**

The department prepares students to take the following exams:

Paper 1: Drama and Prose Paper code: 4ET0/01

- Externally assessed

Overview of content

- Drama.
- Prose

Section A: Drama

Students must answer **one** question on **one** of the seven texts listed below:

- Arthur Miller: *A View from The Bridge*
- J B Priestley: *An Inspector Calls*
- William Shakespeare: *Henry V*
- William Shakespeare: *Much Ado About Nothing*
- William Shakespeare: *Romeo and Juliet*
- Oscar Wilde: *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- Thornton Wilder: *Our Town*

Section B: Prose

Students must answer **one** question on **one** of the six texts listed below:

- Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*
- Harper Lee: *To Kill a Mocking Bird*
- R K Narayan: *The English Teacher*
- John Steinbeck: *Of Mice and Men*
- Mildred Taylor: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*
- *Nineteenth Century Short Stories* (edited by Mike Hamlin, Christine Hall & Jan Browne, Heinemann New Windmill). All stories in the collection are prescribed. Questions on this text will require students to write about at least two stories from the collection, at least one of which will be named.

Overview of assessment

- The assessment of this paper is through a 1 hour 45min. examination, set and marked by Edexcel.
- The total number of marks available is 60.

Paper 2: Unseen Texts and Poetry Anthology Paper code: 4ET0/02

- Externally assessed

Overview of content

- Unprepared poem or prose extract.
- Section C of the *Edexcel Anthology for IGCSE and Certificate Qualifications in English Literature*.

Overview of assessment

- The assessment of this paper is through a 1hour 30min. examination, set and marked by Edexcel.
- The total number of marks available is 40.

Head of Department: Mr C.R. Jenkins

Geography

Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification Number: 2 GA01

A very popular subject that has achieved outstanding results in recent years, Geography is a wide-ranging subject at GCSE, covering many aspects of both the Human and the Natural worlds. The Year 9 course begins the GCSE by covering the more accessible topics and so pupils should already know if they are likely to succeed at GCSE based on their progress in Year 9. Next year will see the launch of our first overseas trip for several years – Iceland is a geographer's paradise! We have two more local Field Trips in Year 10. The first of these is to a managed coastline at Walton on the Naze, Essex, whilst the second is linked to the controlled assessment and the location may vary from year to year.

We study the physical world in which we live, focusing on the natural forces that shape it, and the way in which we humans interact with the environment around us. Many of the skills and topics learnt will be useful in everyday life and there is a strong overlap with other subjects. There are four units each worth 25% of the overall GCSE.

Unit 1 - **Geographical Skills and Challenges**

Unit 2 - **The Natural Environment** with an emphasis on sustainable projects linked to important environmental issues.

Unit 3 - **The Human Environment** with an emphasis on modern population movements across the world and tourism.

Unit 4 - **Investigating Geography** – controlled assessment based on a local fieldtrip.

Geography GCSE is a linear course, meaning all the exams are taken at the end of the two year period (Summer Year 11). The controlled assessment work is carried out in class and submitted for moderation later in the Year. The students will have **no examined coursework** to complete outside of the classroom.

Geography is a subject that appeals to pupils with a wide range of interests and strengths, and we strive to stretch the most able with a thorough provision of extension tasks/activities whilst supporting and coaching pupils that need more help over the two years.

Head of Department: Mrs J Burger

History

Examination Board: CIE
Specification Number: 0470

The Modern World History course focuses on the 20th Century. The syllabus is designed to allow students to gain an historical perspective on some of the main issues facing the contemporary world. The course builds on key skills that have already been introduced in Years 7 – 9.

The following topics are studied: The inter-war period, which comprises of a study of the Treaty of Versailles; League of Nations; Causes of World War Two; Weimar and Nazi Germany. We also study the post-war period, where we look at The Cold War; studying its causes and the attempt by America to contain communism. This leads to a study of both the Cuban missile crisis and The Vietnam War. We also learn about the Iraq War.

There are two exams and one extended piece of coursework. One of the exams counts for 40% of the overall mark and is tested on the inter-war and post-war period, along with Germany. The other exam is 33% of the overall grade and is a sources paper. The content changes every year and it will be based on one of the above units. The coursework totals 27% of the overall grade. This is on the significance of propaganda to the Nazi regime.

Head of Department: Mr J. Kerlake

Languages

French, German and Spanish

Examination Board: AQA Certificate (IGCSE)

Specification Numbers: French 8655, German 8665, Spanish 8695

In choosing a language GCSE students continue with the language they are currently studying in Year 9. There are no ab initio courses.

The pattern of assessment is identical for each of the three modern foreign languages. Candidates are entered for the AQA Certificate (IGCSE) in each of the four skill areas: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Each component accounts for 25% of the overall grade. The Reading, Listening and Writing components will be assessed at the end of Year 11 during the external examination session. There is also an externally assessed oral exam. All four skills are practised regularly in class and in French, pupils benefit from conversational sessions with our language assistant. For Prep we make use of the Virtual Learning Environment, a textbook, pair work, worksheets, radio and television, ICT and magazines. Pupils start their preparation for this course in Year 9 and are already working towards this qualification. The Department encourages exchanges and trip participation and maintains partnerships with schools in Europe. All Language pupils have the opportunity to visit a target country during a residential trips week in June of Year 10. Recently, there have been trips to Paris, Berlin and Andalucía.

Our language courses offer pupils the opportunity to benefit from the high demand for language skills in the British employment market today. Accordingly we have the following aims:

- To develop the ability to use the target language effectively for purposes of practical communication;
- To form a sound base of the skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure;
- To offer insights into foreign culture and civilisation;
- To develop an awareness of the nature of language and language learning;
- To provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation;
- To encourage positive attitudes to foreign language learning and to speakers of foreign languages and a sympathetic, tolerant approach to other cultures and civilisations.

Head of Department: Srta. Bustamante

Mathematics (©)

Examination Board: AQA
Specification Number: 8300

This is a linear specification with three equally weighted papers (one non-calculator and two calculator) taken at the end of the course. There are two levels (or “tiers”) of entry, Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). All sets take the examination at the end of Year 11.

This qualification in Mathematics encourages students to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, mathematics and to recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society. This qualification prepares students to make informed decisions about the use of technology, the management of money, further learning opportunities and career choices. It requires students to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including Number, Algebra, Geometry and Measures, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change, Probability and Statistics. Students need to use their knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts. They need to apply the functional elements of mathematics in everyday and real-life situations. This specification gives students the opportunity to develop the ability to acquire and use problem-solving strategies, select and apply mathematical techniques and methods in every day and real-world situations, reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context. There will be no coursework element.

Set 1 students will also be entered for AQA Further Mathematics Level 2 Certificate 8360. This is a challenging and rewarding course which introduces students to some of the more complex A level topics, including calculus, matrices, proof and co-ordinate geometry. This is particularly useful for students who intend to do Mathematics A level.

Head of Department: Miss C.J. Fulford

Music

Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification Number: 2MU01

The GCSE Music course is designed to allow candidates to study music through the integration of performing, composing, listening and appraising with opportunities to use music technology. There are four areas of study which cover a wide range of music, including classical music, world music and popular music. The specification caters for a wide spectrum of musical abilities and requirements.

Unit 1 Performing: Candidates have to prepare one solo piece (which could be on a standard musical instrument, sequencing on a computer, singing or with DJ decks) and one ensemble piece (which could involve playing in a group or producing a multi track recording). Recordings of these performances may take place at any time during the course.

Unit 2 Composing: In this paper students develop musical ideas in the form of compositions or arrangements. These two pieces must last between two to four minutes in total. Each piece must be linked to different areas of study.

Unit 3 Listening and Appraising: In this paper students sit an examination lasting 1 hour 30 minutes. They respond to questions based on recorded extracts of music on a CD. The questions are based on music in a variety of styles and traditions across all the areas of study.

Head of Department: Mr J.R. Wyatt

Physical Education

Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification Number: 2PE01

The full GCSE course consists of a practical component worth 60% of the overall mark and a written paper worth 40%. The course is most suitable to a student involved in the School's sports programme.

Practical skills (60%): Pupils are assessed in a variety of activities from the Games and PE programme. In the main, the students' marks are comprised of games activities (Football, Hockey, Cricket, and Athletics) in addition there is an aesthetic component (gymnastics or trampolining) or a fitness element assessed over ten weeks. Students may be assessed as a player, official or leader. In addition students aim to develop one of the areas through an analysis of performance and a personal exercise plan.

Written paper (40%): The paper is in two parts:

1. Multiple choice questions;
2. Short answer questions.

The syllabus content for this is divided into two parts:

- Healthy active lifestyles
- Healthy active body

Please note all students will also have 1 period of practical PE per week as part of the curriculum.

Head of Department: Mr D. Breeze

Religious Studies

Examination Board: AQA

Specification Number: Short course: 4056

Full course: 4057

Religious Studies is an exciting and challenging subject at GCSE and is relevant to real life. The specification is designed to tackle topics that are debated daily in all cultures and have been for thousands of years.

All students are taught the Short Course in this subject which is Unit 3: Religion and Morality. It covers different (religious and non-religious) arguments for and against contemporary issues, such as abortion, euthanasia, drug abuse, crime and poverty. Those students who do not opt for the Full Course in this subject (see next paragraph) will sit an examination in Unit 3 at the end of Year 11 in order to gain a half GCSE in the subject.

Students can also take Religious Studies as a full GCSE subject. Apart from their lessons covering the unit above, they will be taught two further units: Unit 2: Religion and Life Issues and Unit 4: Religious Philosophy and Ultimate Questions. These two units cover everything from animal rights and war to arguments concerning the existence of God and the problem of evil. Full Course students will sit examinations in Units 2, 3 and 4 at the end of Year 11, and their best two results will make up their final grade.

Students who are keen on exploring moral, social, legal, political and religious questions raised by the world in which we live today will want to opt for the Full Course GCSE. Students are taught to explain and evaluate points of view and they are taught how to express themselves clearly and rationally.

Head of Department: Dr K. Viswanathan

Science (©)

Examination Board: AQA IGCSE
Specification Numbers: AQA 8404

Students at Aldenham are taught each of the sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, separately to IGCSE. This preserves the character of the individual sciences and also helps students to make an informed decision about the choice of AS Level sciences.

Students begin the IGCSE course in year 9. The content of the IGCSE course is very much based on traditional science and provides an excellent foundation for further study at AS/A2 level.

Assessment takes place throughout the three years through a series of end of topic and end of year tests. The test at the end of year 9 informs a process which leads to the decision as to whether or not pupils follow the Double Award or Triple Award course in years 10 and 11. There is no coursework component in this IGCSE course. The main features of 'How science works' are assessed in paper 1 of the external exam papers. Boys and girls in the top-sets are assessed in each separate science at the end of year 11 through two external exam papers, each of 1.5 hours duration, leading to three IGCSE's. Those in the lower sets will take the Double Award IGCSE in science which is assessed through six papers of 1 hour duration.

The content of all courses is both challenging and relevant to everyday life. Whilst the double award provides an adequate basis for further study, those thinking of choosing one or more sciences at A level should study separate sciences and should be aiming to achieve at least B grades.

Head of Department: Dr P. J. Reid