



ER 1597

ALDENHAM SCHOOL

Elstree, Hertfordshire

GCSE

**A Guide to Courses
2020-2022**

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 GCSE's.

Mathematics: Leading to one or two GCSE's.

These occupy c.50% of curriculum time.

The remaining time is taken up by the **option subjects**.

We *recommend* that students choose four subjects from the option subjects as follows:

I - Continue with their Modern Foreign Language (strongly recommended)

I - Humanity (History, Geography, PRE, & Classical Civilisation)

I - Creative or performance-based subject

(Art, Design & Technology, Computer Science, PE, Music, Drama)

I - Free choice from the following list of subjects:

PRE

Physical Education

Computer Science

Art

Drama

Classical Civilisation

Spanish

Computer Science

French

Latin

History

Geography

Music

Design & Technology

Making Choices at GCSE and IGCSE

Choices should be made in the light of individual advice given by Housemasters, Tutors, Heads of subject and subject teachers. Aldenham offers excellent careers advice and pupils should consult with the Careers Advisor Mrs Tekin, the Deputy Head (Co-Curricular) Mrs E Murray, or the Deputy Head (Academic) Dr P Reid, if they wish for further information concerning careers related GCSE choices.

Every effort will be made to accommodate provisional choices. If a pupil wishes to change his/her choices we will endeavour to make it possible. **However, it is not possible to guarantee 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.

Details of how to make your option choices will follow in due course.

Art and Design (Fine Art)

Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification No: I FA0

The GCSE Art and Design course aims to develop pupils' practical and technical art skills, furthering their analytical and creative thinking. They will spend time developing their understanding of artists and artistic movements, allowing them to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts throughout their lives.

Through their work, pupils will explore and develop their creative and technical skill set, furthering their confidence in their existing artistic ability, before being given the opportunity to develop skills in the media of their choosing. Pupils will be given the opportunity to work in many disciplines including; drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and mixed media with elements of photography. The development of written analysis and contextual studies is embedded across all elements of the course.

GCSE Art and Design is examined through a coursework unit (60%) and an externally set assignment (40%). The directed coursework element consists of two projects set and guided by the Aldenham School Art Department. These projects provide opportunities for pupils to develop and demonstrate observational skills, research and critical analysis, idea development and the realisation of a final outcome personalised to the strengths and interests of each student. The externally set assignment consists of an intensive research and development period in response to a specified topic. Pupils will select references and media of interest and produce supporting studies leading to a final, ten-hour piece completed under exam conditions.

Director of Art: Miss A Pigott

Classical Civilisation

Examination Board: OCR
Specification No: J199

GCSE Classical Civilisation is suitable for any student who has an interest in the Classical Greek and Roman world. Previous experience of the subject is not required. The subject is ideal for students who enjoy subjects such as Latin, English, History and Geography. The examinations involve a series of short written answers based on a stimulus passage or picture, followed by an essay.

The course provides a fascinating exploration of the culture of Classical Greece and Rome through the study of literature in translation, material culture and societal 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 societies. The course helps students to enrich their own thinking, writing and speaking. It also 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. It is an excellent foundation for studying any humanities subject at A Level and University.

2 examined papers, 1 hour 30 minutes each:

Component Group 1: Thematic Study: Myth and Religion

Component Group 2: Literature and Culture: Roman City Life

Head of Department: Mr T Hoskins

Computer Science

Examination Board: CIE
Specification No: 0984

IGCSE Computer Science 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 CJ Chandler

Design and Technology

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: GCSE (9-1) in Design and Technology (8552)

Assessment:

- 50% Written Exam: 2 hour paper worth 100 marks
- 50% Design and make task: Non-exam assessment (NEA) Coursework worth 100 marks

The updated GCSE Design and Technology specification no longer categorises the different subjects within its course. All the individual Design and Technology students are offered one exam paper and are given the same NEA context as stimulus for their coursework.

Assessment areas within both the Written Exam and the NEA Coursework:

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles
- Minimum of 15% Mathematics in practice

Design and Technology offers a challenging GCSE course which appeals to any pupil willing to stretch their imagination and use initiative to solve real-life problems. Pupils who follow this course develop highly transferable skills such as analysis, evaluation, problem-solving, communication (both written and graphical) and time management.

The GCSE course covers core Design and Technology theoretical principles and all students will cover Timbers, Metals, Textiles, Polymers, Papers, Boards and Systems. The qualification is modern and relevant, so students can learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes, as well as established practices. The course places greater emphasis on understanding and applying iterative design processes. Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. Students learn to draw formally and to apply knowledge and understanding to solve problems - culminating in a final piece of coursework which accounts for 50% of their final GCSE grade.

Students have a choice of two Design and Technology subjects on the options selection form:

- Design and Technology 1 (Focus mainly on Timbers & Polymers for outcome)
- Design and Technology 2 (Focus mainly on Textiles for outcome)

Students choosing Design and Technology 1 will have regular access to the machinery and equipment in the main workshop rooms for their practical work and have a material focus on Timbers and Polymers. Students choosing Design and Technology 2 will have their regular access to machinery and equipment in the Textiles workshop for their practical work and will have a material focus on Textiles and Polymers. Neither are exclusive, and we will use the results and data from their Year 9 courses to advise and direct students when being placed in their options.

Head of Department: Miss CE Macdonald

Drama

Examination Board: AQA
Specification No: 8261

This is a good option for pupils who have an appreciation and passion for the study of Drama. Pupils will enjoy taking part in performances, practical exploration of text and analysing live theatre. The ability to write effectively is of paramount importance, as theory constitutes 70% of the GCSE, through both a written examination (mostly essay-style questions) and written coursework.

During the course, pupils will:

- Gain expertise in physical and vocal performance and presentation, staging two play extracts.
- Work together creatively to devise their own original piece of theatre with clear intentions and direction.
- Develop critical analysis and evaluation skills with regard to the work of theatre professionals.
- Study a full text and learn about roles of theatre makers and different elements of a production.

Course Overview:

Component 1 Understanding drama – sat in Year 11 (40% of GCSE)

Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes (standard time)
80 marks in total

Section A: multiple choice (4 marks)

Section B: four questions on a given extract from the set play (44 marks)

Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a live theatre production (32 marks)

Component 2 Devising drama (practical and theory) – completed in Year 10 (40% of GCSE)

- Devising log (60 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 80 marks in total

Component 3 Texts in practice (practical) – completed in Year 11 (20% of GCSE)

- Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) **and** Extract 2 (20 marks)
- 40 marks in total

Director of Drama: Mr E Avdjian

English Language and English Literature (©)

Examination Board: CIE Language
Examination Board: Edexcel Literature
Specification No: Language 990 CIE
Specification No: Literature 4ET I

Pupils study English Language and English Literature over the two years; these are two separate subjects with separate grades awarded. Some 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.

International GCSEs have been reformed and updated. Both the CIE IGCSE English Language and The Edexcel IGCSE English literature courses are graded using the 9-1 grading system.

CIE IGCSE 990 English Language:

Paper 2 Reading Passages (Extended) 50%

Written paper, 2 hours, 50 marks

- Pupils answer three questions on two passages which may be on a similar topic.
- Passage A will be 650–750 words and Passage B will be 550–650 words in length.
- Candidates should spend approximately 15 minutes reading the passages.
- Dictionaries may not be used.
- Pupils taking this component are eligible for grades 3–9.

Paper 3 Directed writing and composition 50%

Written paper, 2 hours, 50 marks

- Pupils answer two questions, one from each section.
- Dictionaries may not be used.
- Candidates are eligible for grades 1–9 on this component.

Edexcel IGCSE 4ET I English Literature

Paper 1: Poetry and Modern Prose 2hours (60%)

Anthology Poems

If–, Rudyard Kipling
Prayer Before Birth, Louis MacNeice
Blessing, Imtiaz Dharker
Search For My Tongue, Sujata Bhatt
Half-past Two, UA Fanthorpe
Piano, D H Lawrence
Hide and Seek, Vernon Scannell
Sonnet 116, William Shakespeare
La Belle Dame Sans Merci, John Keats
Poem at Thirty-nine, Alice Walker
War Photographer, Carol Ann Duffy

The Tyger, William Blake
My Last Duchess, Robert Browning
A Mother in a Refugee Camp, Chinua Achebe
Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night, Dylan Thomas
Remember, Christina Rossetti

Modern Prose

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck
Whale Rider, Witi Ihimaera
Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe
Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan

Paper 2 Modern Drama and Literary Heritage 1hr 30 minutes: (40%)

Modern Drama

An Inspector Calls, J B Priestley
A View From a Bridge, Arthur Miller
Death and the King's Horseman, Wole Soyinka
Kindertransport, Diane Samuels
Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time adapted, Simon Stephens

Literary Heritage

Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare
Macbeth, William Shakespeare
Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
Great Expectations, Charles Dickens
The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne

Head of Department: Mr CR Jenkins

Geography

Examination Board: CIE IGCSE
Specification No: 0976

A very popular subject that has achieved excellent results in recent years, Geography is a wide-ranging subject at IGCSE, covering many aspects of both the Human and the Natural worlds. The Year 9 course begins the IGCSE by covering the more accessible topics and so pupils should already know if they are likely to succeed at IGCSE based on their progress in Year 9.

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. The course features a wide range of Case Study Examples that reflect the international flavour of this syllabus. Many of the skills and topics learnt will be useful in everyday life and there is a strong overlap with other subjects. There are three final examination papers, each contributing towards the overall IGCSE grade awarded.

Paper 1 – Geographical Themes

- Population & Settlement
- The Natural Environment
- Economic Development

Assessed by a written exam of 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Paper 2 – Geographical Skills

- An examination that focus upon the wide range of skills that have been introduced throughout the course.

Assessed by a written exam of 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Paper 3 – Fieldwork Assessment

- An examination that expects candidates to evaluate fieldwork research presented in the examination paper, assessing evidence and presenting conclusions from their own fieldwork experience.

Assessed by a written exam of 1 hour and 30 minutes.

All papers have questions that range from multiple choice, to short answers and extended prose.

Geography IGCSE is a linear course, meaning all the exams are taken at the end of the two year period (Summer Year 11). There is no controlled assessment or coursework. However, fieldwork within the curriculum time will remain an important part of learning beyond 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: Mr R Wildsmith

History

Examination Board: CIE IGCSE
Specification No: 0977

The IGCSE Modern World History course focuses on the 20th Century. The syllabus is designed to allow pupils 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. Pupils also study the post-war period, 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. Pupils 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 will be on the significance of propaganda to the Nazi regime.

Head of Department: Mr B Fraiss

Latin

Examination Board: OCR
Specification No: J282

Latin at GCSE is suitable for students who have studied Latin since the start of 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 Latin specification divides into the study of Language and Literature components. The Literature examinations involve reading short excerpts and a longer narrative from some of the best Latin literature of the Classical period, in unadulterated original form.

For the Language, the examination focusses on translation and comprehension of Latin passages, and an additional element either of translation from English into Latin or grammatical questions. We work on understanding complex Latin sentence construction and narrative translation primarily from the *Latin to GCSE* textbooks with stories from Roman History, alongside stories from Roman life and mythology. Eventually translation is practised using past papers and other Latin GCSE materials and textbooks.

The OCR GCSE consists of 3 written examinations – there is no coursework:

- **1: Latin Language:** 1 hour 30 minutes (50% of qualification).

This paper has two sections. **Section A** (30% of the marks for this component) is a range of short comprehension questions on a short passage, as well as a choice of English into Latin sentences or grammatical comprehension questions. **Section B** includes further comprehension questions on a harder Latin passage, as well as an unseen translation of a Latin passage (70% of the marks for this component).

- **2: Latin Prose Literature:** 1 hour (25% of qualification).

Students study Latin prose. For the examinations in 2022-23, students are likely to study Apuleius and Cicero.

- **3: Latin Verse Literature:** 1 hour (25% of qualification).

Students study Latin verse. For the examinations in 2022-23, students are likely to study Virgil's account of the Underworld from book 6 of his *Aeneid*.

Head of Department: Mr T Hoskins

Modern Foreign Languages

French and Spanish

Examination Board: AQA GCSE

Specification Nos: French 8658, Spanish 8698

In choosing a language, GCSE pupils 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 two modern foreign languages.

Candidates are entered for the AQA GCSE either at the Foundation tier or at Higher tier. 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. Each component accounts for 25% of the overall grade. All four component skills are practised regularly in class and our 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 all pupils studying a language at GCSE level to participate in the cultural trips. All language pupils have the opportunity to visit a target country during the Summer term. Recently, there have been trips to La Rochelle and Bilbao.

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 Modern Foreign Languages: Srta. Bustamante

Mathematics (©)

Examination Board: AQA
Specification No: 8300

This is a linear GCSE 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). We start the course in the Lent Term of Year 9. Both tiers have a different Scheme of Work and depend on the ability of students at that time. There are many opportunities throughout the course for movement between tiers. Students consistently working towards a high 5 or above embark on the Higher Tier syllabus and those targeting a grade 4 or 5 take the Foundation Tier. In general set 1 – 3 begin on the Higher Tier and set 4, 5 and 6 begin with the Foundation syllabus, with set 4 following an enriched Foundation syllabus allowing them to target the 5. All sets take the examination at the end of Year 11.

This qualification in Mathematics encourages pupils 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 pupils 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. Pupils need to apply the functional elements of mathematics in everyday and real-life situations. This specification gives them 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

Pupils 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 Fulford

Music

Examination Board: WJEC/EDUQAS
Specification No: C660QS

The GCSE course is divided into three sections:

- Performing (30%)
- Composing (30%)
- Appraising (40%)

Pupils will be expected to perform one or more solos and one or more ensemble pieces lasting at least 4 minutes in total and should be aiming to be of at least a good Grade 3 standard by the Christmas of Year 11, in order to access the top grades. There is a free choice of pieces to be performed and pupils can include pieces they have used for Associated Board/Rock School/Trinity exams.

Two compositions are to be completed lasting 3 to 5 minutes in total, one to a brief set by the exam board and the other a free choice by the candidate.

The performances and compositions can be recorded at any time during the second year of the course.

The course contains four areas of study: Forms and Devices (Classical), Music for Ensemble (Musical Theatre, Jazz and Chamber Music), Film Music and Rock, Pop and Fusion. There are two set works which are Mozart's Minuet and Trio from 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik' and Rainbow's 'Since You've Been Gone'. The 1 hour 15 minute appraisal paper will feature a combination of short and medium answer questions on unfamiliar pieces of music related to the areas of study and the two set works. There will also be melodic/rhythmic dictation questions and one longer response question.

Head of Department: Mr MS Hallas

Physical Education

Examination Board: EDUQAS
Specification No: 601/8444/9

The full GCSE course consists of a practical component worth 30%, a written piece of coursework (Personal Exercise Programme) worth 10%, and a written examination paper worth 60% of the overall GCSE. The course is most suitable to pupils involved in the School's sports programme and to someone who has a very keen interest in learning about the theory side of Physical Education & Sport.

Practical assessment (30%)

Pupils are assessed in their ability to perform in three activities from the approved Ofqual activities list: -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/830247/GCSE_PE_activity_list_revised_2019_FINAL.pdf

They will be assessed in at least 1 team sport e.g.; football, and 1 individual sport e.g.; badminton. The 3rd sport is the pupil's free choice, e.g.; can be a team or individual sport.

Coursework: Personal Exercise Programme (10%)

Pupils must identify physical fitness areas for development in one of their practical assessment activities e.g.; a footballer may choose to work on their cardio-vascular fitness.

Over a minimum period of 8 weeks they must devise and carry out a 'Personal Exercise Programme' in order to improve their area for development.

This piece of work will be delivered and completed in theory and practical lessons.

Written paper (60%)

This is a 2 hour written examination, to be taken at the end of the course, which tests the pupils' knowledge of the theory side of Physical Education.

The theory syllabus content is divided into five parts:

1. Health, training and exercise
2. Exercise physiology
3. Movement analysis
4. Psychology of sport and physical activity
5. Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport

The paper will consist of a variety of short and long answer questions.

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

Head of Department: Mr DL Breeze

PRE (Philosophy, Religion & Ethics)

Examination Board: AQA
Specification No: 8062

Who should study this course?

Any students can opt to take full course PRE GCSE as an option; this course focuses on Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics.

What will I study?

All pupils study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Buddhism. They will also study the following topics from a philosophical and ethical perspective, with a focus on Christianity:

- Relationships and Families
- Religion and Life
- Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Religion, Crime and Punishment

How will I be assessed?

Pupils will take two examinations at the end of Year 11; one Religion exam and one Philosophy and Ethics exam. Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes long.

What skills will I learn?

PRE enables pupils to develop their understanding of spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues in considerable depth. All modules address at least one of these areas directly. Pupils learn about the nature of the spiritual issues and have the opportunity to consider some responses to spiritual questions. Students studying any of these units will gain an understanding of the beliefs of the Christianity and Buddhism and of the way these have an impact on cultural and social issues in the community and in the family. Pupils will also learn how to be reflective, emphatic, articulate, evaluative, eloquent, decisive, philosophical and creative.

How will this course help me when I finish my GCSEs?

- Encourage pupils to be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad, satisfying and worthwhile course of study
- Challenge and equip pupils to lead constructive lives in the modern world
- Encourage pupils to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion
- Help pupils to explore religions and beliefs, reflect on fundamental questions, engage with them intellectually and respond personally
- Enhance pupils' spiritual and moral development, and contribute to their health and well being
- Enhance pupils' personal, social and cultural development, their understanding of different cultures locally, nationally and in the wider world and to contribute to social and community cohesion
- Help pupils develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the study of religion, and relate it to the wider world
- Encourage pupils to reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in light of their learning

Head of PRE: Mrs A Perry

Science (©)

Examination Board: AQA GCSE

Specification Nos: AQA 8464 Combined Science Trilogy (Double Science)

AQA 8461 Biology

AQA 8462 Chemistry

AQA 8463 Physics

Pupils at Aldenham are taught each of the sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, separately to GCSE. This preserves the character of the individual sciences and also helps pupils to make an informed decision about the choice of A Level sciences.

Pupils begin the GCSE course in Year 9. The content of the GCSE course is very much based on traditional science and provides an excellent foundation for further study at A-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 Combined Science Trilogy Award or Triple Award course in Years 10 and 11. There is no coursework component in this GCSE course. Higher performing pupils in the sets, normally sets 1 and 2 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 individual GCSE's. Those in the remaining sets will take the Combined Science Trilogy Award GCSE in science which is assessed through six papers of 1 hour duration and leads to the award of 2 Science GCSE's.

The content of all courses is both challenging and relevant to everyday life.

Head of Department: Mr A Shead