BABINGTON
HOUSE SCHOOL

GCSE Options

General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)

It is now time to start making choices about the programme of GCSE study you wish to undertake at Babington House. GCSEs provide a broad general knowledge for each subject which allows you to become increasingly specialised through further study at A Level, degree level and beyond.

Babington House students complete nine GCSE subjects, with the possibility of studying a tenth GCSE in Further Maths if selected.

We hope Babington House students will accomplish:

- A thirst for learning that is enthusiastic, inquisitive and determined.
- Outstanding communication in both written and spoken English.
- In-depth mathematical and scientific knowledge and application.
- Confidence in self-expression and the ability to make good choices.
- Individual distinction through the pursuit of sport, music, drama, and other cultural activities.
- Moral, social and spiritual values within our Christian context, and tolerance of the views of others.
- Continuous and progressive attainment of knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes to further facilitate life-long learning.

We will achieve this by:

- Providing **academic excellence** through a rich and exciting curriculum which encourages everyone to succeed and grow.
- Promoting **positive behaviour for learning** and cultivating our school code of conduct – Kindness, Courtesy, Determination, Honesty and Respect.
- Delivering **outstanding pastoral care** for all students.
- Enabling students to develop their interests beyond GCSE with a view to further study at A Level.

This booklet will provide you with the information you need to enable you to select your GCSE options, after careful consideration and discussion.

The Year 9 Options Evening is a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the subjects on offer and your suitability to take them. Heads of Department will be available to help with any issues you may have at this stage and in the following weeks. Students and families are required to attend this important evening.

Curriculum Options

Universities look for a broad range of subjects at GCSE and are increasingly interested in those students who achieve the highest possible grades, not the highest number of subjects. Babington House students will complete a minimum of nine subjects.

Compulsory Subjects

- Mathematics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Science – students choose either:
    - Combined Science Trilogy - worth two GCSE qualifications comprising of units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, covering a broad content of scientific study in each discipline.
    - Triple Science - worth three GCSE qualifications comprising of separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, covering in-depth scientific study and analysis. Additional subject material for triple science, particularly in Chemistry and Physics, require greater mathematical application.

We recommend that students in set one for science opt for Triple Science and students in set two Combined Science. Students in set two who wish to choose Triple Science and those in set one who wish to choose Combined Science should consult with the Director of Science, Mr Sturt, and the Director of Studies, Ms Wiffen. If you are considering studying A Levels in either Biology, Chemistry or Physics, Triple Science is recommended.

Option Subjects

Students studying Combined Science GCSE should choose four option subjects plus one reserve subject from the list below. Students studying Triple (Separate) Sciences should choose three option subjects plus one reserve subject from the list below.

- Art (Fine Art)
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- 3D: Product Design
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Textile Design

In addition, all students will follow a bespoke PSHE (including Relationships and Sex Education) and Wellbeing programme, and have PE and Games lessons, none of which are examined.

Choosing your Options

At Babington House it is not compulsory to study a language or a humanity, however some university courses require a language at GCSE. Therefore, consider your future ambitions when making your choices.

Your career or university degree may seem a long way ahead but taking time to consider what you might like to do in the future is a good way of building the relevant skills and experiences you may require. Start by looking at university courses or careers that may appeal to you. Look at the A Levels required and which GCSE subjects you will need in order to study these A-Levels. UniFrog is the perfect tool to help fully understand the wide range of courses and career opportunities available at post-18. Universities do look at your GCSE grades as an indication of your academic ability, so your selection is important. Choose subjects that may help with future courses and ones you can do your best in.

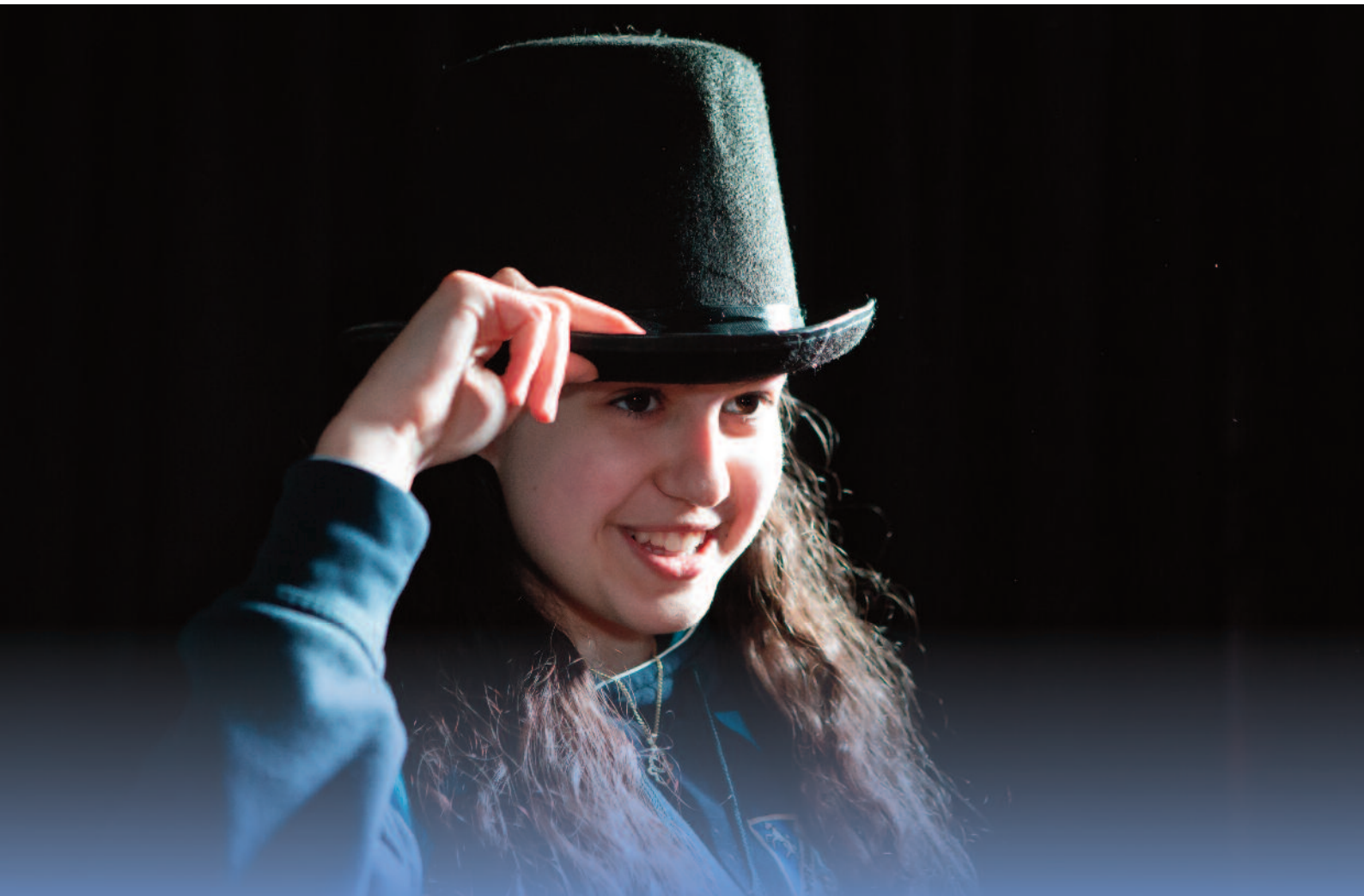
Talk to the subject teachers regarding workload to ensure that you choose options that you can time manage effectively.

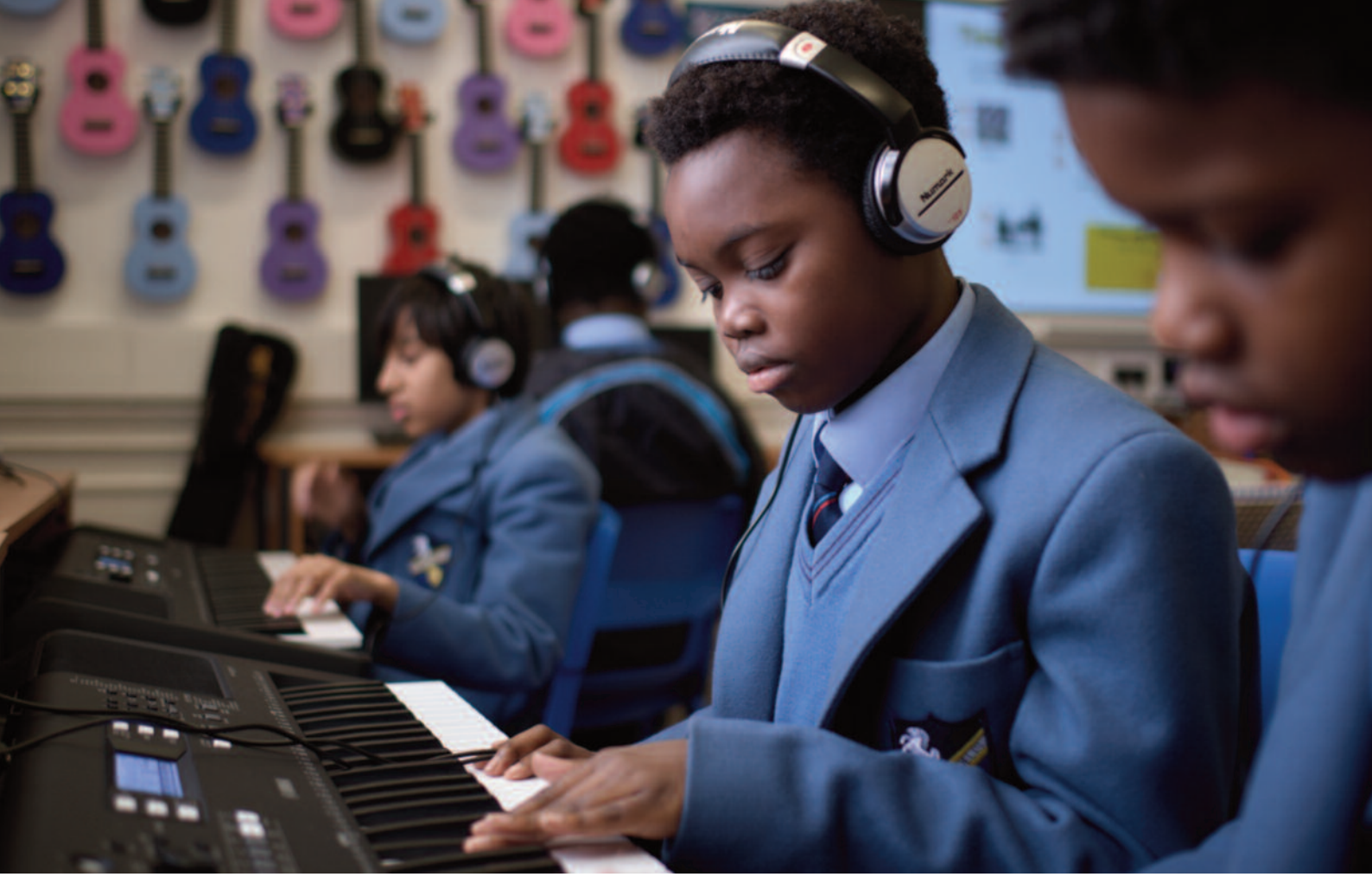
At Babington House we do our very best to ensure that all students can study their chosen options. On the rare occasion that this is not possible due to timetable constraints, or lack of uptake in a subject, we will discuss other possible option choices with you.

Please note - the school reserves the right to exercise its professional judgement when coming to a final decision as to which subjects are to be studied.

Choices are made using the Online Form. You can access this via this QR code:

Alternatively, you can use the online link to the Form that will be emailed to families.





Reporting, Assessment & Feedback

The progress of all students is formally assessed five times per year, consisting of a mixture of data reports and parents' evenings.

At the start of Year 10 students sit the Year Eleven Indicator Score assessment (Yellis). This baseline adaptive online assessment provides an objective indication of the likely performance at GCSE. Target Grades for each subject are then generated using Yellis data alongside teachers' professional judgement and a level of aspirational challenge.

A Target Grade is the grade that a student could realistically be expected to aspire to with consistently strong application. Subject teachers report progress against this target throughout the GCSE cours as the Current Projected Grade – the grade we expect students to achieve if they continue to work at the current level. Grades are expressed as GCSE grades 9-1.

Students will also receive a colour grading for effort:

- **Outstanding** – Above the expected standard
- **Good** – At the expected standard
- **Requires Improvement** – Below standard expected
- **Unsatisfactory**

Grade Week (Feedback)

Before reports are sent home, students spend time with Form Tutors discussing their academic progress and performance, during Grade Week. Grade Week is an important opportunity for students to act on the information and specific targets set by subject teachers, in order to make as much individual progress as possible.

Full written reports with longer comments are sent home once a year. The first Year 11 Parents' Evening concentrates on mock results and subject choices for the Sixth Form.

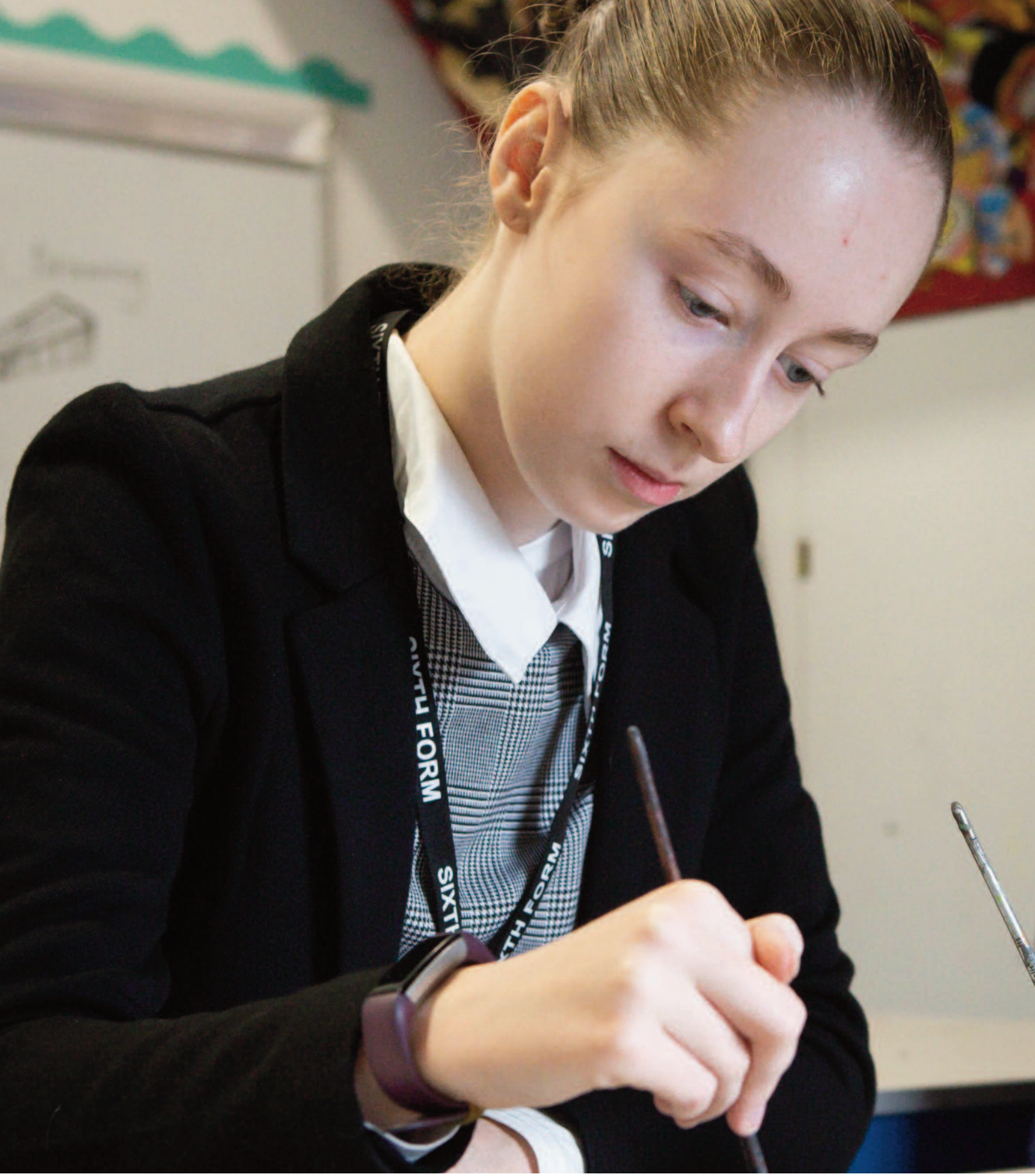
I hope you find the information in this booklet and the options evening helpful.

Mr Showell – Head of Senior School

GCSE Grades

Instead of GCSE grades being measured by the letters A*-U, numbers 9-1 are now used, with 9 being the highest grade:

GCSE Grading	
New Grading Structure	**Old Grading Structure**
9 8 7	A* A
6 5 4	B C
3 2 1	D E F G
U	U



Sixth Form Entry

Entry to the Sixth Form at Babington House requires a minimum of 6 GCSE grades at Grade 6 or above, with a minimum of a grade 6 or 7 in the subject you wish to study for A Level.

Mathematics (Edexcel)

GCSE Mathematics is designed to equip students with fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts. On completion of the course, students will be able to reason mathematically, draw conclusions and interpret mathematical information in a variety of forms.

Mathematics provides a strong foundation for employment and further academic and vocational study. The knowledge and skills obtained by students at GCSE level will help them to progress to a full range of courses in higher education, and are crucial in other disciplines such as Biology, Physics and Geography.

Specification at a glance:

Number:

- Calculations
- Fractions, decimals and percentages

Algebra:

- Notation, vocabulary and manipulation
- Graphs
- Solving equations
- Sequences

Geometry and Measures:

- Construction
- Area and volume
- Pythagoras' Theorem and Trigonometry
- Vectors

Ratio and Proportion:

- Direct and inverse proportion
- Compound units

Probability:

- Conditional probabilities
- Venn diagrams and Tree diagrams

In the Higher tier, students will be able to achieve grades in the range of 9 – 3.
In the Foundation tier, pupils will be able to achieve grades in the range of 5 – 1.

For both tiers, the examination will consist of three assessments, broken down as follows:

	Time	Marks	Mode	Weighting
Paper 1	1 hour 30 mins	80 marks	Non-Calculator	33.3%
Paper 2	1 hour 30 mins	80 marks	Calculator allowed	33.3%
Paper 3	1 hour 30 mins	80 marks	Calculator allowed	33.3%

Further Mathematics (AQA)

Further Mathematics is a unique qualification designed to stretch and challenge high achieving mathematicians who are expected to achieve the top grades in their GCSE Mathematics. Because of this, students will be offered Further Mathematics by invitation only.

Throughout the course, students will be introduced to AS level topics such as calculus, matrices, further trigonometry and functions. This makes the course an ideal choice for someone who is considering studying A Level Maths/Further Maths. Further Mathematics will be studied alongside your Mathematics GCSE, thereby giving you an additional GCSE qualification.

Specification at a glance:

Number:

- Product rule
- Surds

Algebra:

- Domain and range of a function
- Composite and inverse functions
- Factor theorem
- Algebraic proof
- Cubic equations

Coordinate Geometry in two dimensions:

- Circles
- Tangents
- Length and midpoint of a line segment

Calculus:

- Differentiation
- Gradient functions
- Maxima and minima

Matrix Transformations:

- Multiplication of matrices
- Transformation matrices and combining transformations

Geometry:

- Geometric proof
- Sine rule, cosine rule and area of a triangle
- Graphs of y = sin(x), y = cos(x) and y = tan(x)
- Trigonometric identities

GCSE Further Mathematics will consist of two assessments:

	Time	Marks	Mode	Weighting
Paper 1	1 hour 45 mins	80 marks	Non-Calculator	50%
Paper 2	1 hour 45 mins	80 marks	Calculator allowed	50%

English Literature (AQA)

Do I need English?
Yes! The government legally requires all students to obtain a pass in English Language, and any further or higher education institution will expect this from you. English Literature is an additional GCSE that is regarded very highly in all sectors. The writing skills you learn in Literature will support those you learn in Language.

How much English will I have on my timetable?
You will have 7 periods of English a week. Each weeks' lessons will be divided into separate Literature and Language classes; this means that you get to work on your exam skills every week. In both years you will have a lesson each week dedicated to creative and transformative writing, as this makes up such an important component of your language exam.

How many GCSEs will I achieve in English?
You will receive two separate GCSEs graded from 9-1 with a 4 counting as a 'Pass'.

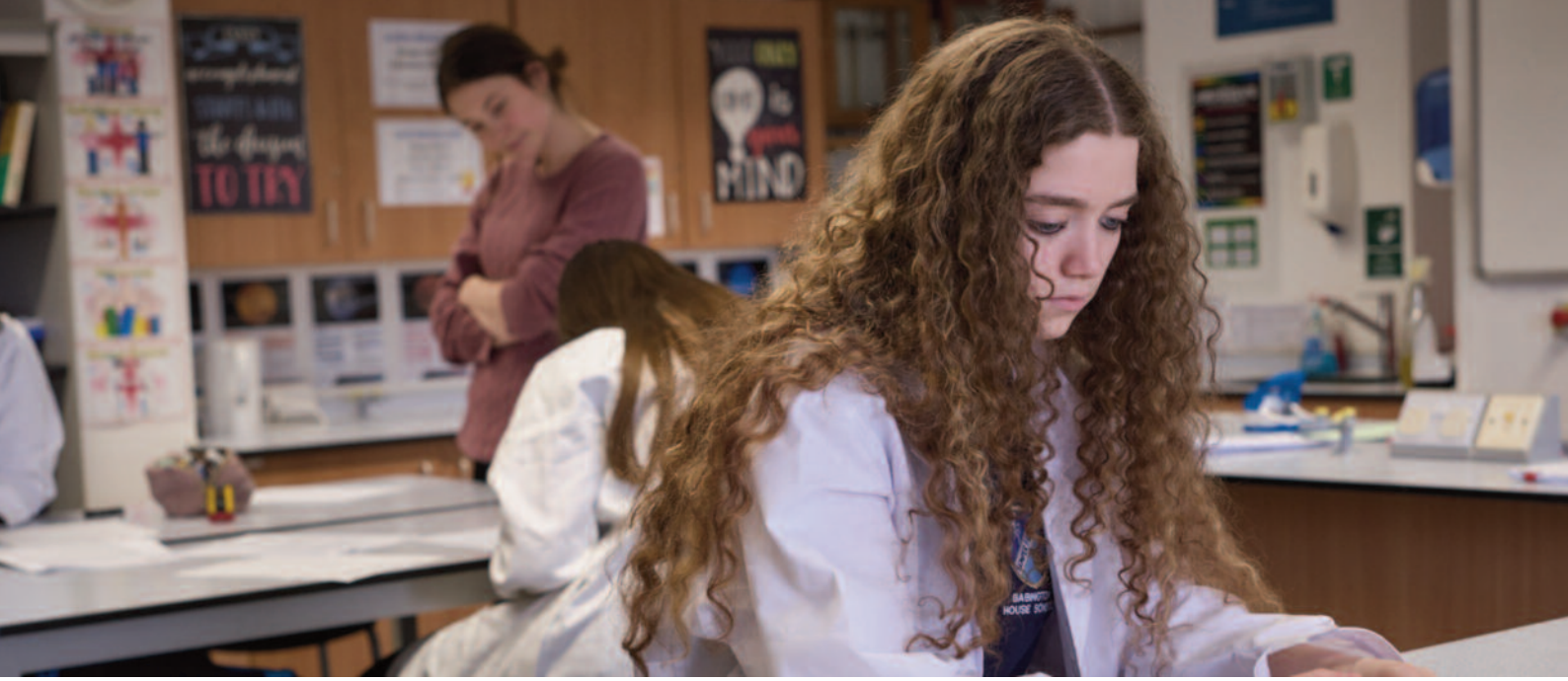
Is there any coursework?
No – the Language GCSE contains a Spoken Language component which does not count towards your overall grade but counts as a separate endorsement. Both GCSEs are 100% examination based at the end of Year 11. You will take two exams each for both Literature and Language.

What will I study for English Language?
We will read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary nonfiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism. You will learn how to analyse and evaluate texts critically, summarise and synthesise information and make comparisons between texts. This knowledge can then be used to inform and improve your own writing, acquiring a wide range of vocabulary, and apply key language techniques alongside correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.

What will I study for English Literature?
You will be studying a wide range of texts in detail, considering the characters, themes, setting and genre. Components are:

- **Shakespeare:** such as Macbeth or Romeo and Juliet
- **19th Century Novel:** such as Robert Louis Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde or Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol
- **Modern Text:** such as JB Priestley's An Inspector Calls or George Orwell's Animal Farm
- **Poetry Cluster** of 15 poems on the theme of Power and Conflict
- **Unseen Poetry**

Can I study A Level English at Babington House?
Of course! We offer English Literature at A Level and it is a fascinating subject! You will need at least a grade 7.



Combined Science (AQA)

How much science will I have on my timetable?
You'll get specialist teachers in all three sciences with two periods of Biology, two periods of Chemistry and two periods of Physics a week.

How many GCSEs will I achieve in science?
The AQA Combined Science GCSE is equivalent to **two GCSEs**; you will be awarded two grades using a grade scale 1-1, 2-1, 2-2 etc. through to 9-9.

Can I still do Science A-Levels with Combined Science?
Yes, you can. However, it is important that you speak directly with your science teacher or the Director of Science for further information and to discuss your suitability before making your final choice.

What will I study?

Biology
Cell biology
Organisation
Infection
Bioenergetics
Homeostatic and response
Inheritance, variation and evolution
Ecology

Chemistry
Atomic structure and the periodic table
Bonding and structure
Quantitative chemistry
Chemical changes
Energy changes
Organic chemistry
Chemical analysis
Chemistry of the atmosphere
Using resources

Physics
Forces
Energy
Waves
Electricity
Magnetism and electromagnetism
Particle model of matter
Atomic structure

Is there any coursework?
No. Assessment is all done through exams, but these will include questions on practical work that you must complete during the course.

- 2 Biology Papers of 1 hour 15 minutes each
- 2 Chemistry Papers of 1 hour 15 minutes each
- 2 Physics Papers of 1 hour 15 minutes each

Triple Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics (AQA)

How much science will I have on my timetable?
You will have specialist teachers in all three sciences with four periods of Biology, four periods of Chemistry and four periods of Physics a week.

How many GCSE's will I achieve?
For Triple Science, you will have three completely different GCSE grades; one for Biology, one for Chemistry and one for Physics. Unlike Combined Science, there is no overlap between the scoring of the three.

Is it harder than Combined Science?
In all honesty…yes. The additional content is more difficult and will require greater in-depth study and mathematical application.

Should I take Triple Science if I want to study Science at A-Level?
Without a doubt. The content of the course is slightly different to Combined Science; you will be in a much better position to study A-Level at the end of the course.

I don't know what I want to do at A-Level, is Triple Science still an option choice?
YES! Science is EVERYWHERE. Not only does it open doors to thousands of various careers (yes… thousands), but your generation are growing up in an increasingly technological world. This world will need creative, logical and hardworking people who studied science at school.

What will I study?
In **addition** to the Combined Science topics above, you will study the following:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Culturing microscopy	Transition metals	Static electricity
Monoclonal antibodies	Nanoscience	Pressure in gases
Plant disease and hormones	Percentage yield and atom economy	Space
The eye	Concentration and titrations	Background radiation
The brain	Volume of gases	Uses of radiation
Control of body temperature	Chemical cells and fuel cells	Nuclear fission and fusion
Water and nitrogen in the body	Using materials	Moments and levers
DNA structure and cloning	Polymers	Momentum
Evolution and speciation	Spectroscopy	Pressure in fluids
Decomposition and decay	The Haber process	Light and lenses
Food production		Red shift

Are the exams different?
You will still get 2 papers for Biology, 2 for Chemistry and 2 for Physics. They will each be 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Physical Education (AQA)

- **Do you enjoy Sport?**
- **Do you attend P.E clubs in school?**
- **Are you a versatile sporting performer?**
- **Do you play for teams outside of school?**
- **Are you hardworking and self-motivated?**

If yes, read on!

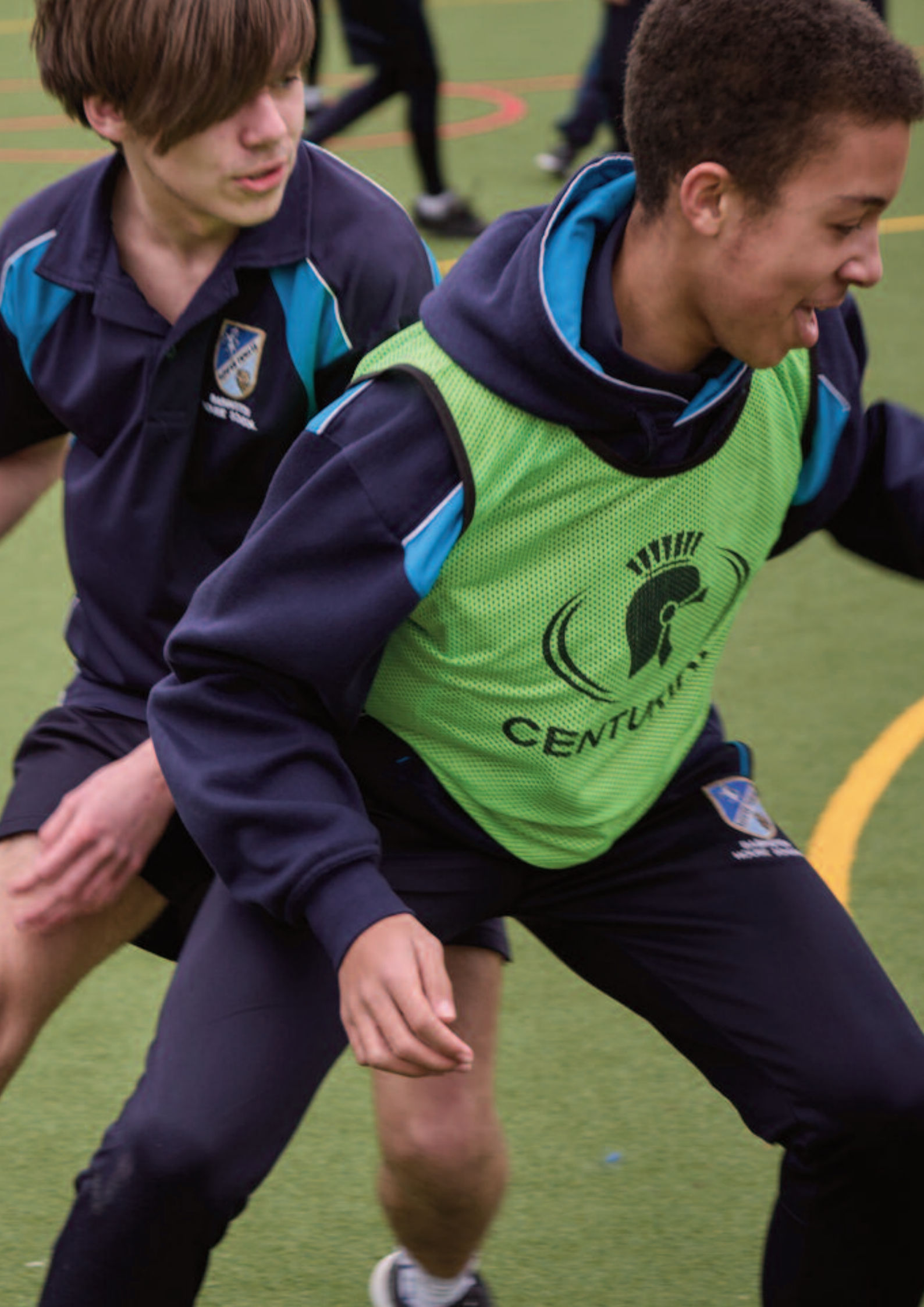
Course Requirements
Students taking this course should have a firm interest in the theory of Sport and Science. Students are assessed on their practical ability in three sports. At least one must be an individual sport and one a team sport. The course is 70% theory based and 30% practical.

Summary of the scheme of assessment:

Paper	Mode of assessment	Weighting	Length of exam
Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport	A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions	30%	1 hour 15 mins
Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport	A mixture of multiple choice/objective questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions	30%	1 hour 15 mins
Practical performance in physical activity and sport Activities that will be assessed in school are: Netball Rock Climbing Outdoor Road Cycling	Assessed by teachers and then moderated by AQA For each of the three activities students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills and in the full context Students will be assessed on their analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity-written coursework	40%	N/A

Progress into Sixth Form / Higher Education:
Sixth Form: A Level Physical Education
Higher Education: Degree in Sports Science/Physical Education/Fitness/Nutrition

Careers:
Broadcasting, Community Sports Coach, Children's Sport Coach, Competition Manager, Dance Instructor, Disability Sports Development Manager, Events Management, Fitness Professional, Football Coach, Football Development Management, Groundsman/Greenkeeper, Gym Instructor, Health Promotion Officer, Journalist, Water Sports Instructor, Marketing, Nutritionist, Outdoor Adventure Leader, Performance Analyst, Personal Trainer, PE Teacher, Photographer, Physiotherapist, Referee, Ski Instructor, Sports Development Manager, Sports Massage Therapist


CENTURION

Geography (AQA)

Whilst studying GCSE Geography you will:

- Learn about what's happening in the world around you right now, and in the future.
- Go on a field trip with your friends to learn real fieldwork skills.
- Develop your communication skills and other transferable skills including justifying and evaluating in decision exercises.
- Develop your abilities of explaining and debate large scale problems (e.g., global warming, poverty, pollution, water shortages and natural hazards)
- Gain a sense of environmental responsibility.

What's involved?

The syllabus focuses on a wide variety of issues and develops the knowledge and understanding that you have learnt at Key Stage 3, such as knowledge about Rivers and Natural Disasters.

Paper 1 Physical Geography - 40%

- UK Landscapes - Coasts and Rivers
- Ecosystems -Tropical Rainforest and Hot Desert regions.
- Natural hazards - Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Tropical Storms and Climate Change.

Paper 2 Human Geography - 40%

- Urban Issues and Challenges - Focus on London and a city in the developing world as megacities, processes of urban change and sustainability and what it means for our cities.
- The Changing Economic World - development, economy and business issues.
- Resource management - food, water and energy issues

Paper 3 Geographical Applications and Geographical skills - 20%

- Issue Evaluation - you'll get a booklet about one of the issues covered in the course before the exam. In the exam you'll be asked questions including a decision-making exercise.
- Fieldwork - you'll be asked questions about the fieldwork you carried out and answer questions regarding fieldwork methods.
- Geographical skills - you'll be given a wide range of resources (maps, graphs etc) and asked questions regarding the data.

A – Level Geography is also offered at Babington House.

History (Edexcel)

Course Description

Our GCSE course is wide ranging, from a study of Medicine Through Time beginning in 1250, to the Cold War ending in 1991. You will study key political events and their causes but also the lives of ordinary people who lived through them. In addition to studying a wide range of historic periods, you will learn a range of skills that will help you with your A-levels, higher education and future work. These include excellent communication and written skills; how to construct an argument; investigation and problem-solving; analytical and critical thinking skills. You will be required to consider and evaluate historical sources from the periods studied and to understand why historians differ in their interpretations of the past. Students of History are highly valued in many careers, not only those such as Journalism, Law, Business, Politics, Museums and Archaeology, but those in medicine and the sciences also benefit from the skills developed through the study of History.

What's involved?

There are three papers for GCSE History:

Paper 1 (30%)

Medicine in Britain 1250 to the present (Thematic Study)

A study of ideas about the causes of disease and illness; Approaches to prevention and treatment; Case Studies – the Black Death, the Great Plague; Development of vaccinations; Fighting Cholera; Development of Penicillin; the fight against lung cancer.

The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: surgery and treatment (Historical Environment)

The trench system; the nature of war wounds; the work of medics; new developments in surgery.

Paper 2 (40%)

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

The origins of the Cold War; Cold War crises 1958-70; the end of the Cold War.

Early Elizabethan England 1558–88

Queen, Government and Religion; Challenges to Elizabeth at home and abroad; The Age of Exploration

Paper 3 (30%)

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39 (Modern Depth Study)

The Weimar Republic; Hitler's rise to power; Nazi control and dictatorship; Life in Nazi Germany

Paper	Mode of assessment	Weighting	Length of exam
Paper 1:	Examination. Compulsory and choice of source and knowledge-based questions	30%	1 hour 15 mins
Paper 2:	Examination. Compulsory and choice of knowledge-based questions	40%	1 hour 45 mins
Paper 3:	Examination. Compulsory Interpretation, source and knowledge-based questions	30%	1 hour 20 mins

Modern Foreign Languages (Edexcel)

French

Course Outline

The new qualification promotes culture, communication and connection. The content of the course covers six themes:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying my future
- Travel and tourism

The course will enable you to:

- Develop ability to communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers.
- Express and develop thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently.
- Listen and understand clearly articulated standard of speech.
- Enrich vocabulary and translate from English to French and vice versa.
- Develop awareness and understanding of the French culture.

Assessment methods

All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: **Speaking** (25%) Speaking Examination - Foundation tier 7-9 minutes, Higher tier 10-12 minutes (Read aloud, role play, picture task and conversation) + 15 minutes' preparation time

Paper 2: **Listening** (25%) Written Examination - Foundation tier 45 minutes, Higher tier 1 hour

Paper 3: **Reading** (25%) Written examination - Foundation tier 45 minutes, Higher tier 1 hour

Paper 4: **Writing** (25%) Written examination - Foundation tier 1 hour 15, Higher tier 1 hour 20 minutes.

A levels and Careers

Studying French at GCSE can lead to continuing to enhance your linguistic and communication skills at A-level. Speaking a Modern language is essential in the world of business, leisure, tourism and education. Do you know that 29 countries have French as their official language?

Spanish

Course Outline

This course is designed to equip you with the knowledge and confidence to communicate in a variety of contexts and to expand your cultural knowledge of the Spanish speaking world. You will continue to practise and develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in the context of the following topics:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying my future
- Travel and tourism

This course is right for you if you love speaking Spanish, enjoy working out the meaning of new words, applying grammar rules in new contexts, being creative in your writing, practising the spoken word with classmates and discovering the Spanish culture.

Assessment methods

All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: **Speaking** (25%) Speaking Examination - Foundation tier 7-9 minutes, Higher tier 10-12 minutes (Read aloud, role play, picture task and conversation) + 15 minutes' preparation time

Paper 2: **Listening** (25%) Written Examination - Foundation tier 45 minutes, Higher tier 1hour

Paper 3: **Reading** (25%) Written examination - Foundation tier 45 minutes, Higher tier 1 hour

Paper 4: **Writing** (25%) Written examination - Foundation tier 1 hour 15, Higher tier 1 hour 20 minutes.

A Levels & Careers

Spanish is the second most spoken language by native speakers and is the fourth most spoken language in the world. Work and business opportunities for candidates who can speak Spanish continue to surge due to emerging economies in South and Central America.

Speaking a foreign language has never been more important than it is now. As a result, many universities are also beginning to request a language as an entry requirement to their courses.

German

Course Outline

The course covers six themes:

- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My personal world
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying my future
- Travel and tourism

GCSE in German will help you to:

- develop your knowledge of and enthusiasm for the German language, learning new skills by providing opportunities for the practical use of the language.
- express and develop thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently.
- listen and understand clearly articulated standard of speech.
- enrich your vocabulary and translate from English to German and vice versa
- develop awareness and understanding of the German culture.

Assessment methods

All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: **Speaking** (25%) Speaking Examination - Foundation tier 7-9 minutes, Higher tier 10-12 minutes (Read aloud, role play, picture task and conversation) + 15 minutes' preparation time

Paper 2: **Listening** (25%) Written Examination - Foundation tier 45 minutes, Higher tier 1 hour

Paper 3: **Reading** (25%) Written examination - Foundation tier 45 minutes, Higher tier 1 hour

Paper 4: **Writing** (25%) Written examination - Foundation tier 1 hour 15, Higher tier 1 hour 20 minutes.

A Levels & Careers

Speaking a modern language is essential in key sectors such as travel and tourism, media education, international banking and business, as well as public relations. Many universities are also beginning to request a language as an entry requirement to their courses. Hast du gewusst? (Did you know?)

The German language is close to English because of their historic language roots, and it is one of the major languages of the world. It is the most widely spoken and official and co-official language i Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and South Tyrol. German is therefore the first language of almost 100 million people worldwide and the most widely spoken native language in the European Union. Why not join them!

Drama (Eduqas)

Course Description

The Drama curriculum is a real mix of practical and theory, using practical exercises to develop your understanding of various performance styles and providing social, historical and political context to the scripts we look at. You will have the opportunity to devise your own performance, explore and perform a scripted text, and take on the role of the director within the final written exam.

As an introduction to the course, you will spend the first term developing performance techniques and looking at explorative strategies, as well as developing an understanding of various practitioners through practical exploration. In Year 10 there is a real sense of developing as a performer, director and producer. In Year 11 you will hone these skills and get to grips with lighting, costume and sound design, amongst others.

You will have the opportunity to see multiple performances and attend various workshops. The Drama department prides itself on giving all students the knowledge of how to create theatre and you will apply many theatrical styles and theatrical techniques to your work.

Course content

Component 1: Devising (40%)

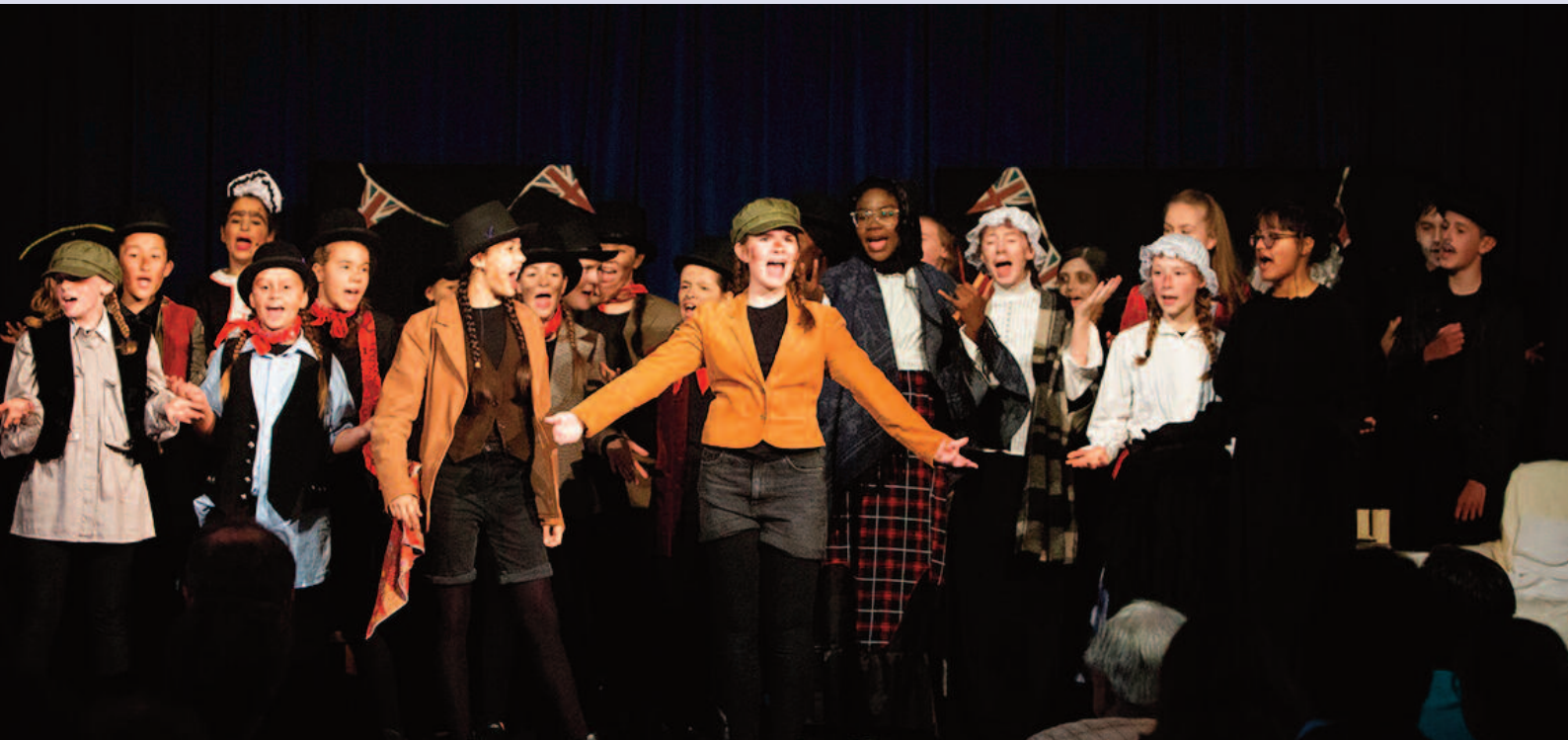
You work as a group to develop a devised piece of theatre from a range of given stimuli. It allows you to stretch the limits of your creativity and imagination, while exploring a theme or topic of interest to you. This performance is led by your group, and you can create any style of performance, using performances seen and explorative lessons as inspiration. You will also produce a written portfolio documenting your devising process and the creation of your character. You are assessed on the contribution to the group, your performance ability, and your written skills in your evaluative portfolio response.

Component 2: Performance from Text (20%)

You will perform two key extracts from a play text, which allows you to explore plot, structure, narrative and stories from around the world, developing your skills of empathy as you study different characters. There is also the possibility of performing two monologues. This component is assessed by an external examiner.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40%) 1 hour 45 minute examination

You will study a text (An Inspector Calls) and will be required to explore how you would direct a key extract, considering, set, style and form. You will also be required to watch a live performance and analyse this in the exam in the form of a live theatre review. We aim to see a range of styles over the two years.



Textiles (AQA)

Course Description

Our GCSE Textile Design course gives students the opportunity to unlock their creativity by teaching them the fundamental skills and concepts of Art, Fashion and Textile Design. Our focus is to build on our pupil's confidence and abilities as Artists and Designers to help them develop their ideas into unique, fascinating and vibrant pieces of Art. The course is divided into two components.

Course content

Component 1 is completed over the two-year course and is worth 60% of the final marks. Students will create a portfolio of research and design work to complement the three projects completed during the course.

- Natural Forms – 3-D textile piece
- Final Major Project – Chosen theme by the students

Component 2 is completed as an examination task worth 40% of the final mark. Based on a set of questions released by the exam board in the January of Year 11, students are given approximately 12 weeks to research and prepare for their final 10-hour examination. Students can focus their coursework and examination pieces on any of the listed areas of Textile Design such as:

- Art Textiles
- Fashion Design and illustration
- Costume design
- Constructed Textiles
- Printed and dyed textiles
- Surface pattern
- Stitched and/or embellished textiles

Pupils are taught a range of different textile manipulation techniques and traditional skills such as felting, appliqué, dyeing, embroidery and quilting. Students also become confident users of our equipment such as sewing machines, embellisher, heat press and our new laser cutter.

3D: Product Design (AQA)

Course Description

Three-dimensional Design, otherwise known as Product Design, is our newest addition to GCSE at Babington House. Students will be given the opportunity to explore the exciting world of Product Design and to use modern technologies to design and create working prototypes.

Alongside the Product Design skills acquired during Key Stage 3, students will be further introduced to various software and equipment such as our new 3D printer, vinyl cutter and laser printer to help produce two projects for component 1, with an additional extended research and final piece for component 2. Component 1 is completed over the two-year course and is worth 60% of the final marks. Students will create a portfolio of research and design work to compliment the three projects completed during the course. Component 2 is completed as an externally set task worth 40% of the final mark. Based on a set of questions released by the exam board in the January of Year 11, students are given approximately 12 weeks to research and prepare an outcome for their final 10-hour examination set over two days.

Course content

Product Design will develop students understanding of how sources inspire the development of ideas within the Design world including:

- how sources relate to historical, contemporary, cultural, social, environmental and creative contexts
- how ideas, feelings, forms, and purposes can generate responses that address specific needs be these personal or determined by external factors such as the requirements of an individual client's expectations, needs of an intended audience or details of a specific commission.

Students will learn numerous skills and techniques including how to use design software such as adobe illustrator, 2D Design and Google sketch-up to create designs and packaging.

Students will also learn how to use the laser cutter to create design intentions and how to 3D print their prototypes to identify design flaws and progress their design development. If you love design, then this course is for you!

Fine Art (AQA)

Course Description

Fine Art is an exciting GCSE option. Students are encouraged to take risks and to question preconceived ideas about Art. This course allows students to explore an idea, convey an experience or respond to a theme or issue of personal significance.

The areas of study are very broad and cover drawing, painting, sculpture, installation and mixed media.

The Fine Art course offers students the experience of experimenting with different materials and developing sustained compositions throughout the duration of the course, whilst looking at context and creating studies in sketch books.

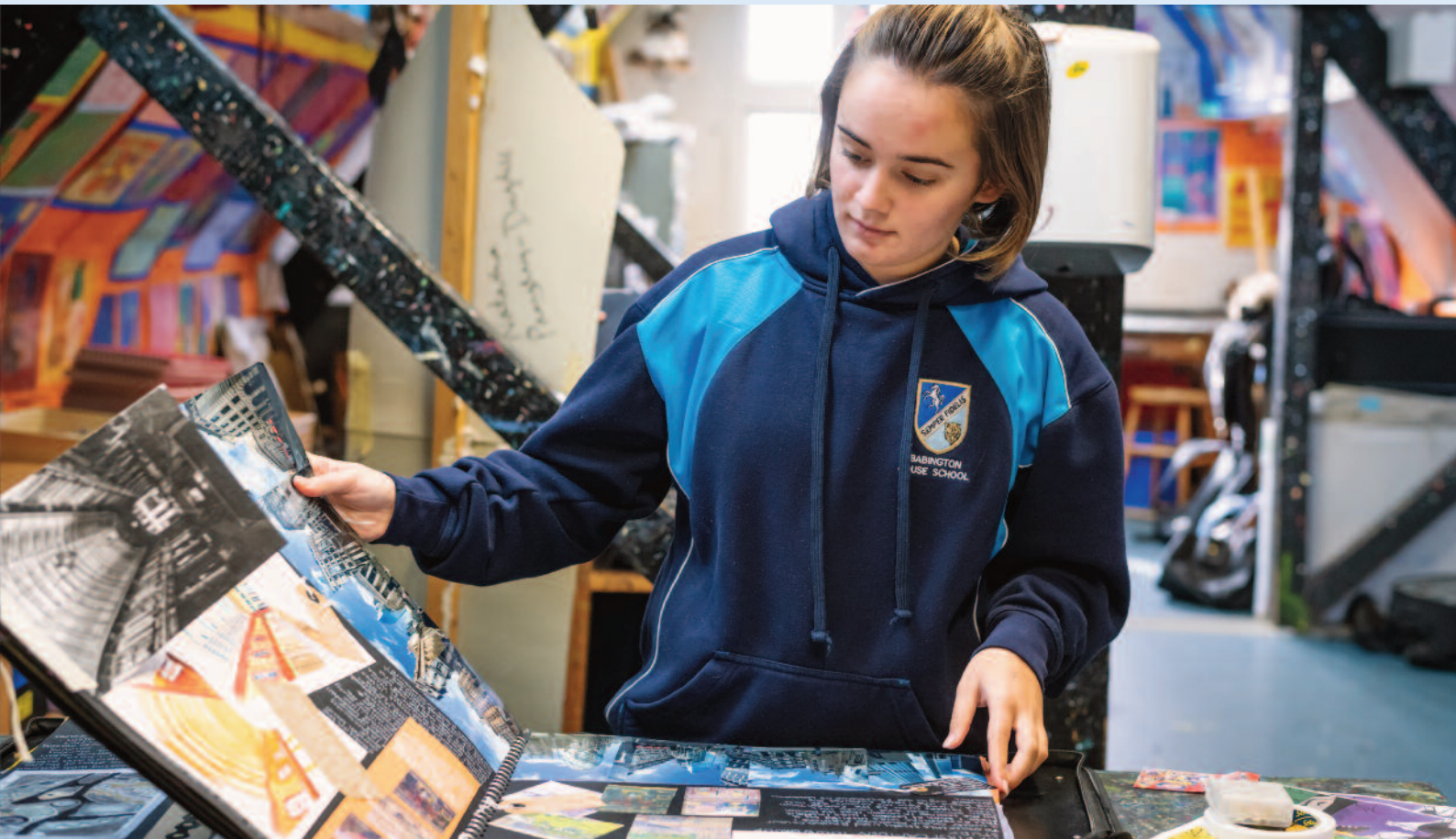
Course content

Students will develop a portfolio of work which is worth 60% of the final mark and will be completed throughout the duration of the course. The work must show drawing skills, written annotation, development of ideas and use of different materials such as paint, collage, printing three-dimensional work and photography.

The second part is the examination task worth 40% of the final mark. Based on a set of questions released by the exam board in the January of Year 11, students are given approximately 12 weeks to research and prepare for their final 10-hour examination.

A Levels & Careers

Where will GCSE Art and Design take you? You can continue your art and design studies at AS and A-level, where the same titles are available. You'll also be able to choose areas of study to specialise in within a particular title. Future career possibilities include fashion design, graphic design, theatre designer, animator, video game designer, illustrator, photographer, architecture, advertising, publishing, interior design and more!



Business Studies (Edexcel)

Course Description

GCSE Business Studies allows students to understand more about the business world, motivating and challenging students as they prepare to make informed decisions about further study and career pathways. The course is divided into two themes:

Course content

Theme 1 concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for students to explore core concepts of setting up a business. In Theme 1, students will be introduced to local and national business contexts and will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact business behaviour and decisions. The following topics are covered:

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on business

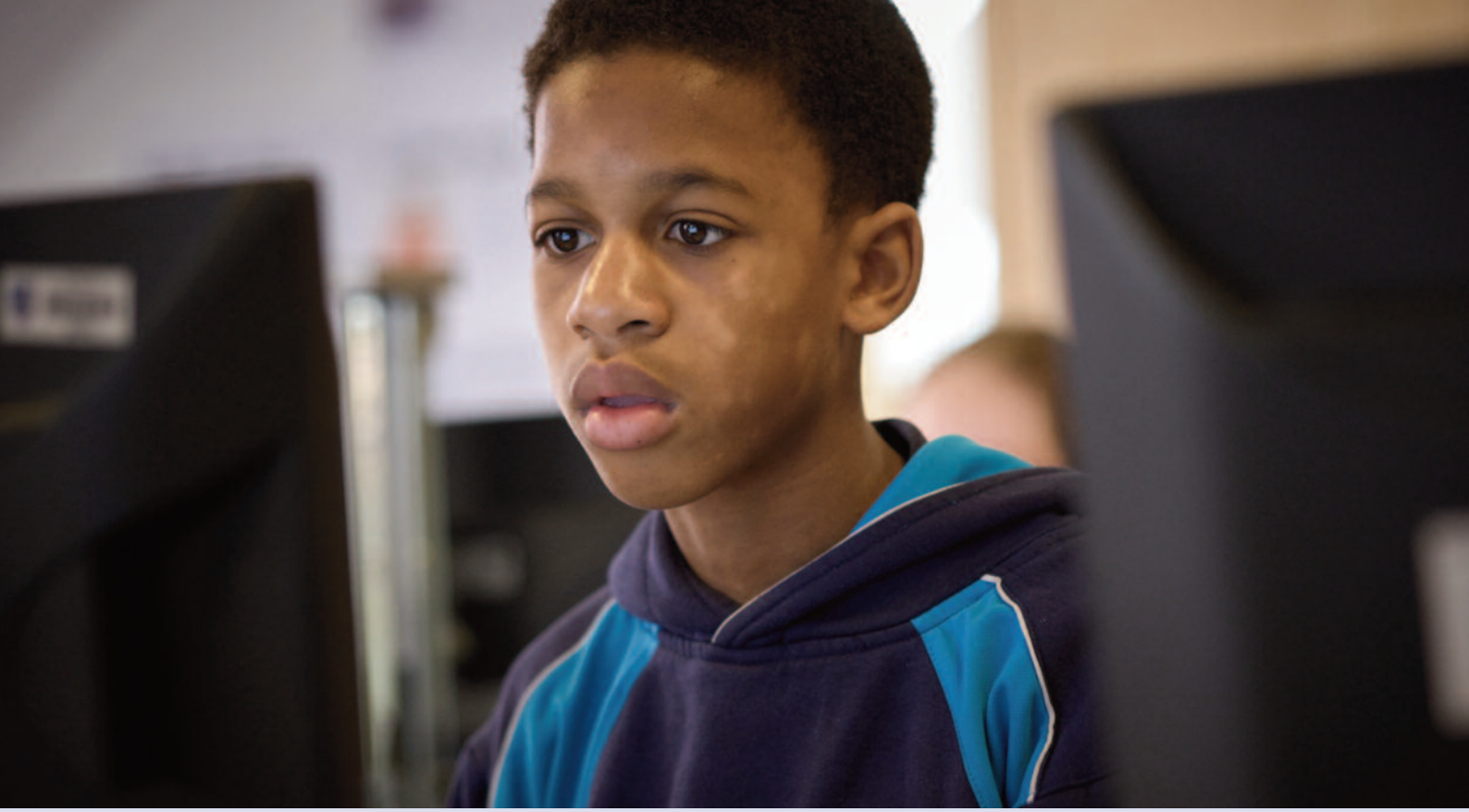
Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. Theme 2 also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows. In this theme, students will be introduced to national and global business contexts and will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact business behaviour and decisions. National contexts build on those in Theme 1 and relate to businesses operating in more than one location or across the UK covering the following topics:

- Growing the business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions
- Making human resource decisions

Students draw on their knowledge and understanding of both themes to apply a range of quantitative skills relevant to business contexts. This includes calculations and the interpretation, use and limitation of quantitative and qualitative data in business contexts to support, inform and justify business decisions.

Assessment

Component	Time	Weighting	Length of exam
Theme 1	Written Exam	50%	1 hour 45 minutes
Theme 2	Written Exam	50%	1 hour 45 minutes



Computer Science (OCR)

Why study GCSE Computer Science?
Digital skills are crucial in almost every role. Even if you do not need them day-to-day, you will most certainly need them to get a job in the first place! Over 90% of jobs in the UK today require digital skills, and this number is only set to grow. The world depends on computers and in this GCSE course you will learn about how they work, the networks they use and how programming can create solutions to everyday problems and future challenges.

The course is divided into two compulsory components each worth 50% of the total marks:

Component 1 - Computer systems: This component introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science. Component 1 is assessed by a 1.5 hour exam, testing knowledge of computer systems through short, medium, and one (8-mark) extended response question. Calculators are not allowed.

Component 2 - Computational thinking, algorithms and programming: This component allows students to apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 1. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators. Component 2 is assessed by a 1.5 hour exam with two sections. Section A (50 marks) tests theoretical knowledge and problem-solving, while Section B (30 marks) assesses practical programming skills. Calculators are not allowed.

Practical programming
Students are given the opportunity to undertake programming tasks during the course which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written exam, in particular component 2, section B.

Computer Science is a great subject but combined with other subjects it can open-up a whole world of opportunities. If you love computers, this course is for you!

Music (Edexcel)

Course Description

GCSE Music combines the disciplines of performing, composing and appraising to create an exciting and challenging course that will develop your musicianship, strengthen musical aspirations and generate a life-long thirst for musical creativity.

Course content

- **Unit 1:** Students perform two pieces of music, as a soloist and as part of ensemble. Students may choose to perform on any instrument or as a singer or a combination of both.
- **Unit 2:** You will also be asked to compose two compositions inspired by the set works you have studied. One composition will be a free composition of your choice and the other following a set-brief by the exam board.
- **Unit 3:** You will study an exciting range of set works developing your understanding of musical devices, harmony, techniques, and terminology, whilst continually developing your aural skills. The set works include music by composers John Williams - **'Star Wars'**, Stephen Schwartz - '**Defying Gravity'** (from the musical Wicked) and Queen - **'Killer Queen'** amongst many others. Unit 3 is assessed in the form of a listening and appraising examination at the end of the course.

Area of Study	Set Works
Instrumental Music 1700-1820	J. S. BACH: 3rd Movement from 'Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 (D Major) (1719) Ludwig van Beethoven: 1st Movement from Piano Sonata No. 8 in C Minor 'Pathetique' (1798)
Vocal Music	Henry Purcell: Music For a While (1692) Queen: Killer Queen (from 'Sheer Heart Attack') (1974)
Music for Stage and Screen	S. Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of 'Wicked') (2003) John Williams: Main Title/rebel blockade runner (from the soundtrack to 'Star Wars Episode IV: New Hope) (1977)
Fusions	Afro-Celt Sound System: Release (from the album 'Volume 2: Release' (1999) Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album 'Esperanza') (2007)

Students wishing to opt for GCSE Music must have achieved a **minimum standard of Grade III**

(ABRSM/Trinity) on an Instrument and/or Voice. Students must also be having individual instrumental or vocal tuition.

Religious Studies (AQA)

Why study Religious Studies?
Students will learn about the beliefs and practices of major world religions. They are challenged with questions about values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues. Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

Who might enjoy this course?
Anyone who enjoys debates and discussing current issues in the world. The course will allow you to express your own beliefs, whilst taking into account the beliefs of others.

How does it follow on from what I have learnt before?
It builds on the key religious beliefs you have learnt in Key Stage 3. It will enable you apply those beliefs to key topics in society such as war, capital punishment, abortion, eating meat, using animals for testing, etc.

What could I do next with GCSE Religious Studies?
A GCSE in Religious Studies is a stepping stone into a wide range of future opportunities. The critical analytical skills you develop will be essential in supporting you in further studies (e.g. A-level) and employment. Those interested in Law find the debates in RS particularly useful for confidence building.

How will I be assessed?
Two written examinations at the end of year 11, each worth 50%.

Paper 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions:

- Christianity
- Islam

Paper 2: A choice of four religious, philosophical and ethical themes. You can choose this as a class with your teacher. The current themes that students are studying include:

- Relationships and families
- Religion and life
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, crime and punishment

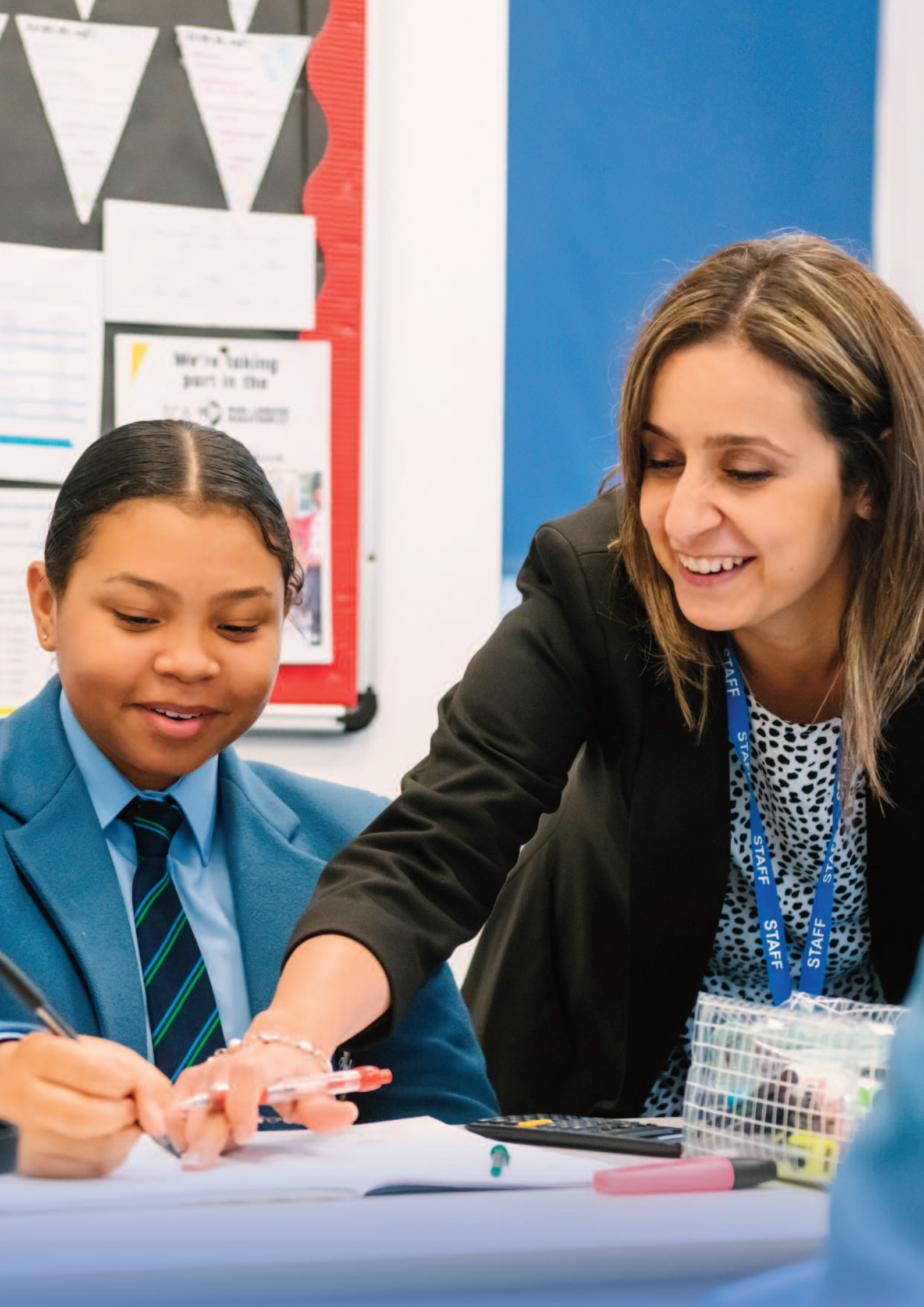
Your next steps…

Options Submission

After the Options Evening we will ask you to make your choice of option subjects and to communicate your choice using an online form. You may complete this form using the QR code at the start of this booklet, or by using the link that will be emailed to families. The options form should be completed by **Monday 10th February 2025**. The timetable for next year will be put together based on the replies you provide at this stage. Later changes to your choices are possible, **only if these changes can be accommodated within the sets allocated, after the initial choices are made.**

The online options form will be emailed to students and families following the options evening.

Remember to think carefully about your GCSE choices. Take time to talk with your subject teachers, form tutor and to your family and to listen to their advice.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