BABINGTON
HOUSE SCHOOL

GCSE Options

Welcome to the next stage of your academic journey!

Choosing your GCSE options can be both an exciting and a daunting time. On the one hand, you may be excited about choosing to specialise in the subjects that you love and want to pursue in the future; at A Level, university, and beyond. On the other hand, it can be daunting to think about dropping subjects that you have enjoyed or having to choose between different subjects.

However you feel about making your GCSE option choices, we are here to help and support you every step of the way. Our GCSE curriculum is designed to enable you to balance the breadth of subjects needed to keep doors open for your future, whilst allowing you to delve deeper into the subject areas you most want to study.

Whether you are someone who has distinct plans for their future career with a clear idea of the pathway ahead, or someone who wants to keep their future options as broad as possible, at Babington House School our GCSE curriculum encourages all students to fulfil their potential, whatever your chosen subject areas.

In addition to the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, students will study either three or four option subjects depending on whether they study the Triple or Double Science Award. PE and Games lessons, PSHE including RSE, Wellbeing and Careers also make up the varied curriculum studied by students throughout Key Stage 4.

Our GCSE curriculum enables students to develop:

- A spirit of enquiry and thirst for learning both inside and outside the classroom
- Outstanding communication in both written and spoken English
- Excellent mathematical skills 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.

Our Year 9 Options Evening is a great opportunity to learn more about the range of GCSE subjects on offer at Babington House School. Please feel free to spend time with our subject specialist teachers and ask any questions you may have about the curriculum, co-curricular trips, assessments, examination requirements and more. You will find further details for each subject in this booklet.

What are the Compulsory Subjects?

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.

- Mathematics (invited students can also sit Further Mathematics GCSE)
- English Language
- English Literature
- Science – students choose either:
    - Combined Science Trilogy Award (Double Science) - students study units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and are awarded a Combined Science grade equivalent to two GCSE grades

or

    - Separate Sciences - students study three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and are awarded three separate GCSE grades, one in each discipline.

Students currently in set two for Science are advised to select Combined Science, and those in set one, Separate Sciences. If you are considering studying A Levels in either Biology, Chemistry or Physics, separate sciences are recommended. Please speak to Mr Sturt, Director of Science, or Ms Wiffen, Deputy Headteacher, if you are unsure.

What are the Option Subjects?

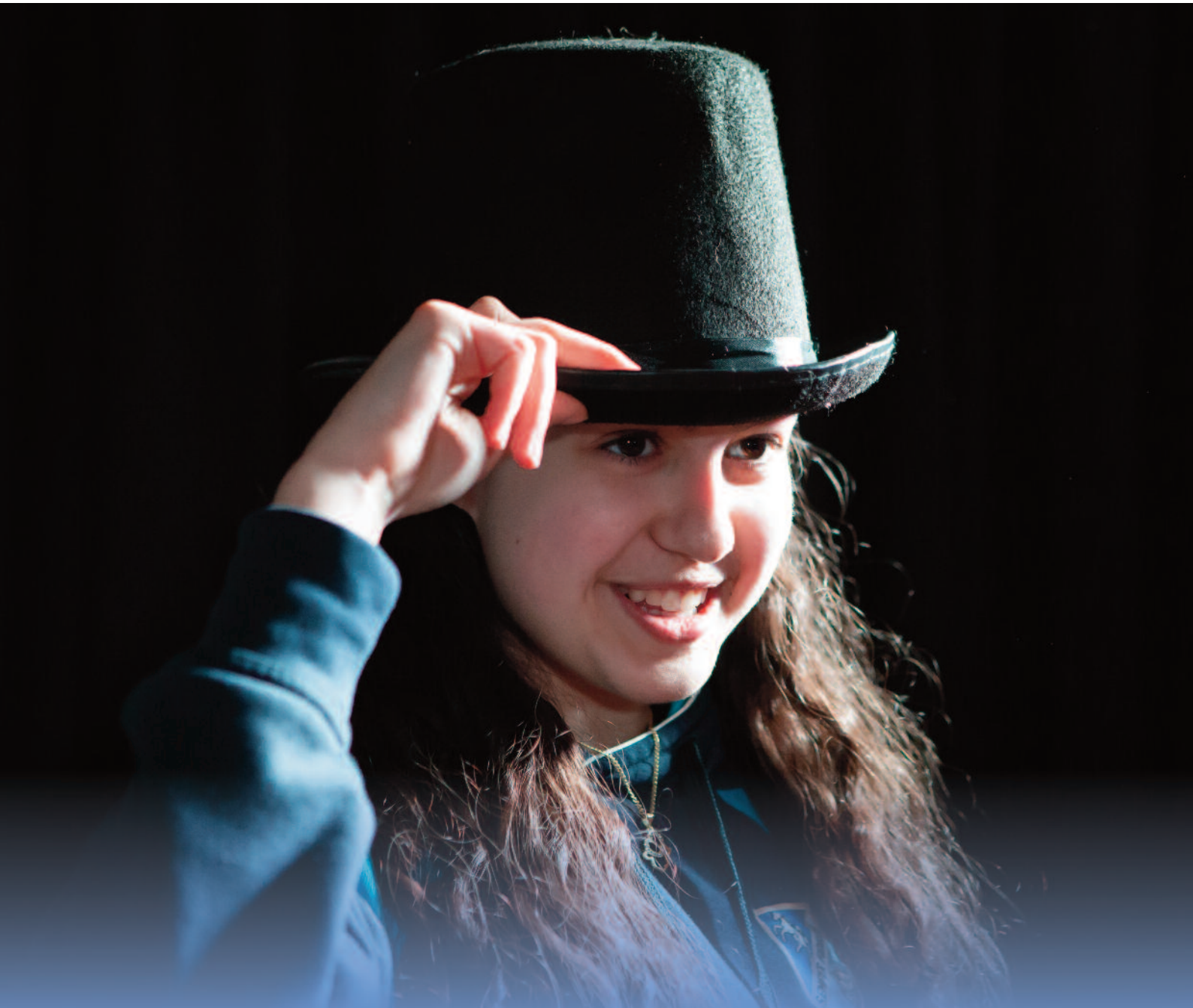
- Art (Fine Art)
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Economics
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- 3D: Product Design
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Textile Design

Students studying Combined Science GCSE will study four option subjects, and those studying Separate Sciences, three option subjects.

How should I choose my Options?

If you have a clear idea of the subjects you would like to study at A Level and beyond, choose option subjects that will best facilitate this. If, however, you are unsure what you would like to study after GCSEs, keep your options open by choosing a range of subjects; for example, a humanity, a language, and a creative subject. Some Russell Group university courses require a Modern Foreign Language grade at GCSE so check university requirement pages if you know what you would like to study in the future. Our online UniFrog platform is a great tool to help you understand the range of courses and career opportunities available and is accessible via our Student Intranet page.

Subject teachers can help you decide which choices best suit your skills, aptitude and interests. We strive to ensure all students can study their chosen option subjects but on the rare occasion that this is not possible, we will discuss other option choices with you. The school reserves the right to exercise its professional judgement when coming to a final decision.



Reporting, Assessment & Feedback

The progress of all students is formally assessed regularly throughout the school year, including end of unit assessments in all subjects, formal end of year exams at the end of Year 10, formal mock GCSE exams in the autumn term of Year 11 and "mini mocks" in the spring term. Regular parental communication takes place across the course of study, including termly data reports, parents' evenings, and full written reports.

At the start of Year 10 students sit the Year Eleven Indicator Score (Yellis) assessment. This 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. Subject teachers report progress against this target throughout the GCSE course 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:

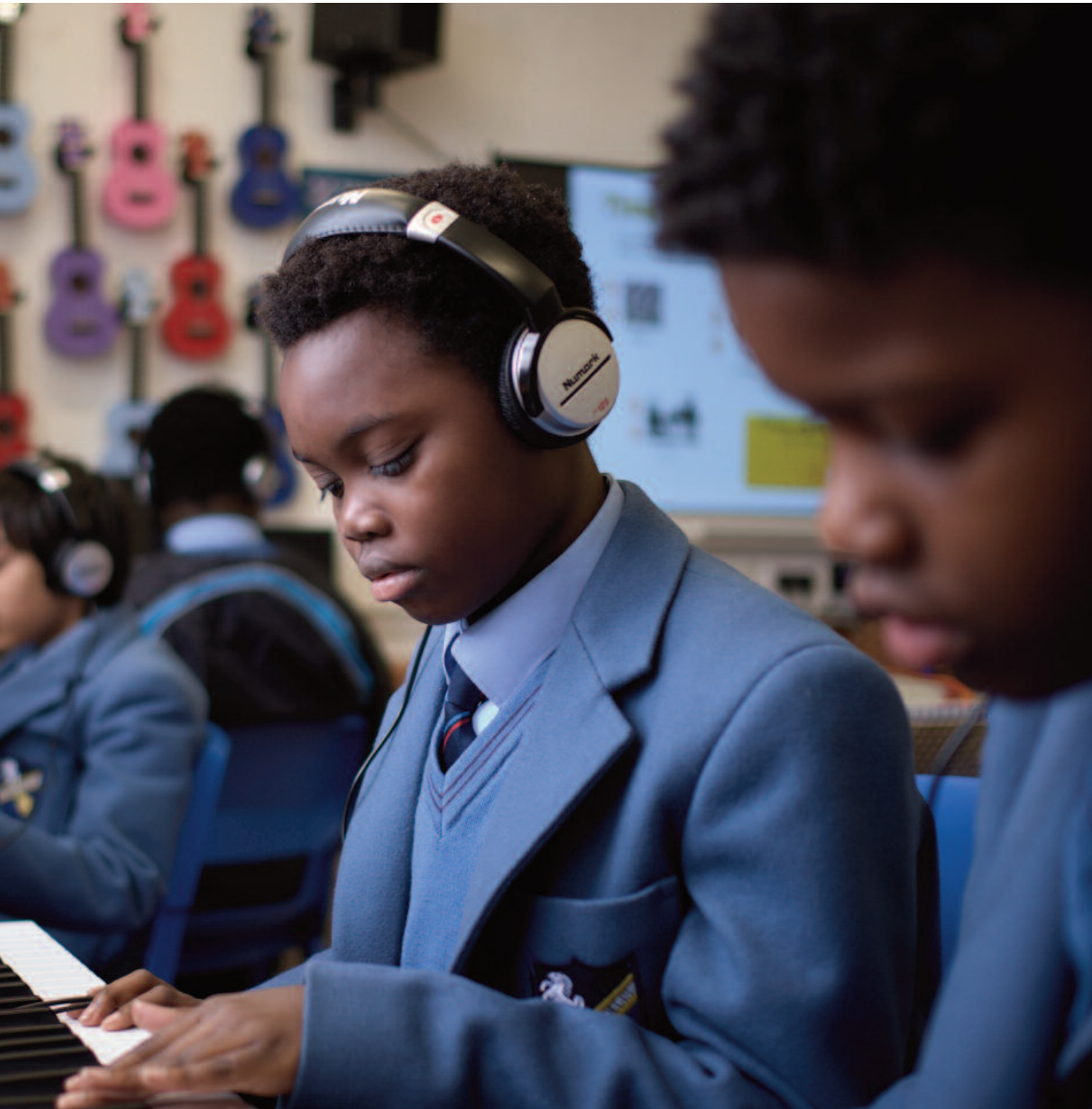
Outstanding Above the expected standard	Good At the expected standard
Requires Improvement Below standard expected	Unsatisfactory

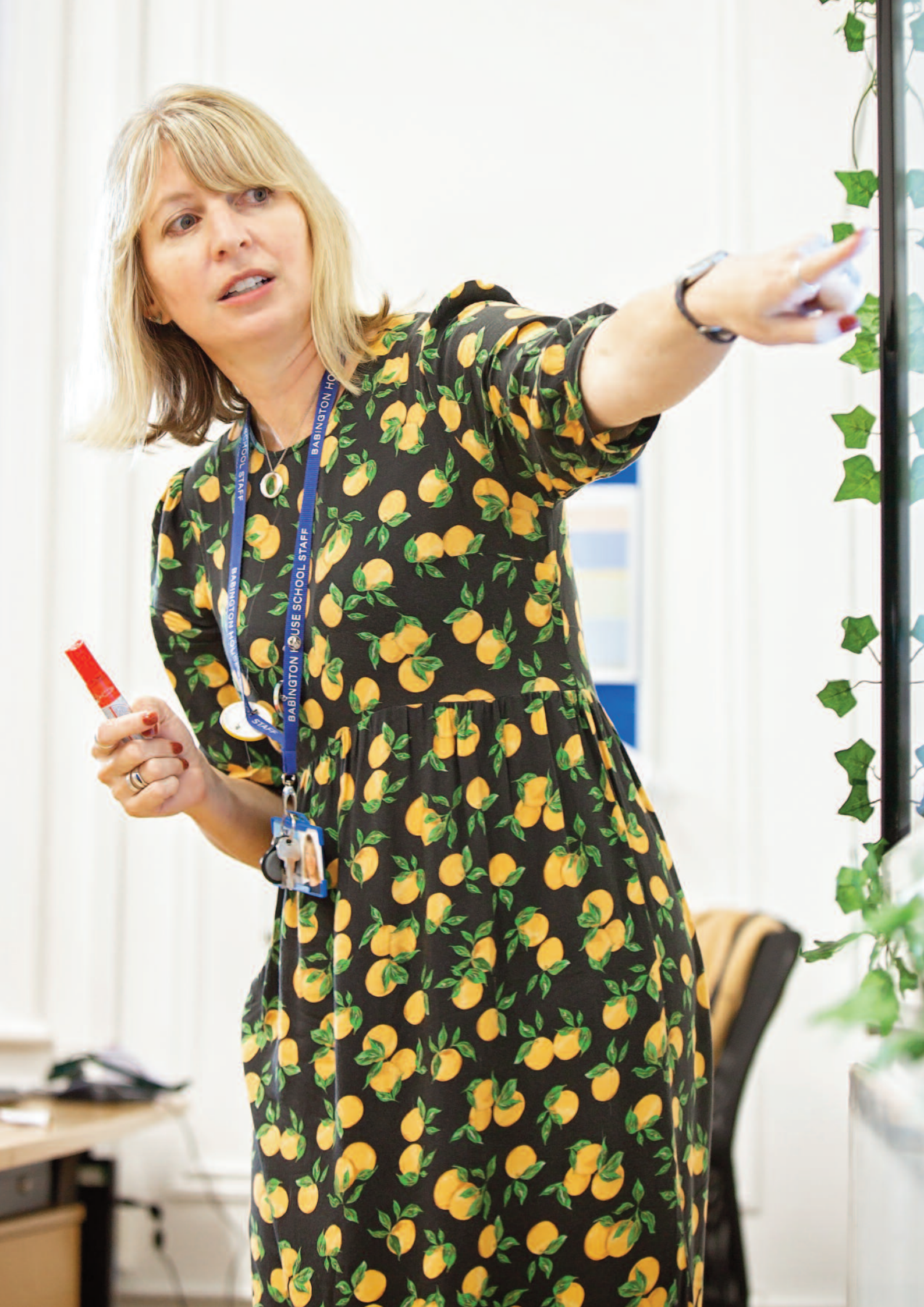
If a student's effort or projected grade are falling below expectations, subject teachers will provide specific feedback and steps the student needs to take to rectify this.

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.

At Babington House we strive to ensure all students achieve their potential and enjoy their learning. We do this by making sure that we get to know all students individually, including their strengths and areas for development, holding the highest expectations for achievement and behaviour, setting academic challenge inside and outside the classroom, and providing a nurturing learning environment that enables students to flourish and thrive.

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




BABINGTON HOUSE SCHOOL STAFF

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, students 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, George Orwell's Animal Farm or William Golding's Lord of the Flies
- **Poetry Cluster** of 15 poems on the theme of Power and Conflict
- **Unseen Poetry**

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	Chemistry	Physics
Cell biology	Atomic structure and the periodic table	Forces
Organisation	Bonding and structure	Energy
Infection	Quantitative chemistry	Waves
Bioenergetics	Chemical changes	Electricity
Homeostatic and response	Energy changes	Magnetism and electromagnetism
Inheritance, variation and evolution	Organic chemistry	Particle model of matter
Ecology	Chemical analysis	Atomic structure
	Chemistry of the atmosphere	
	Using resources	

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!

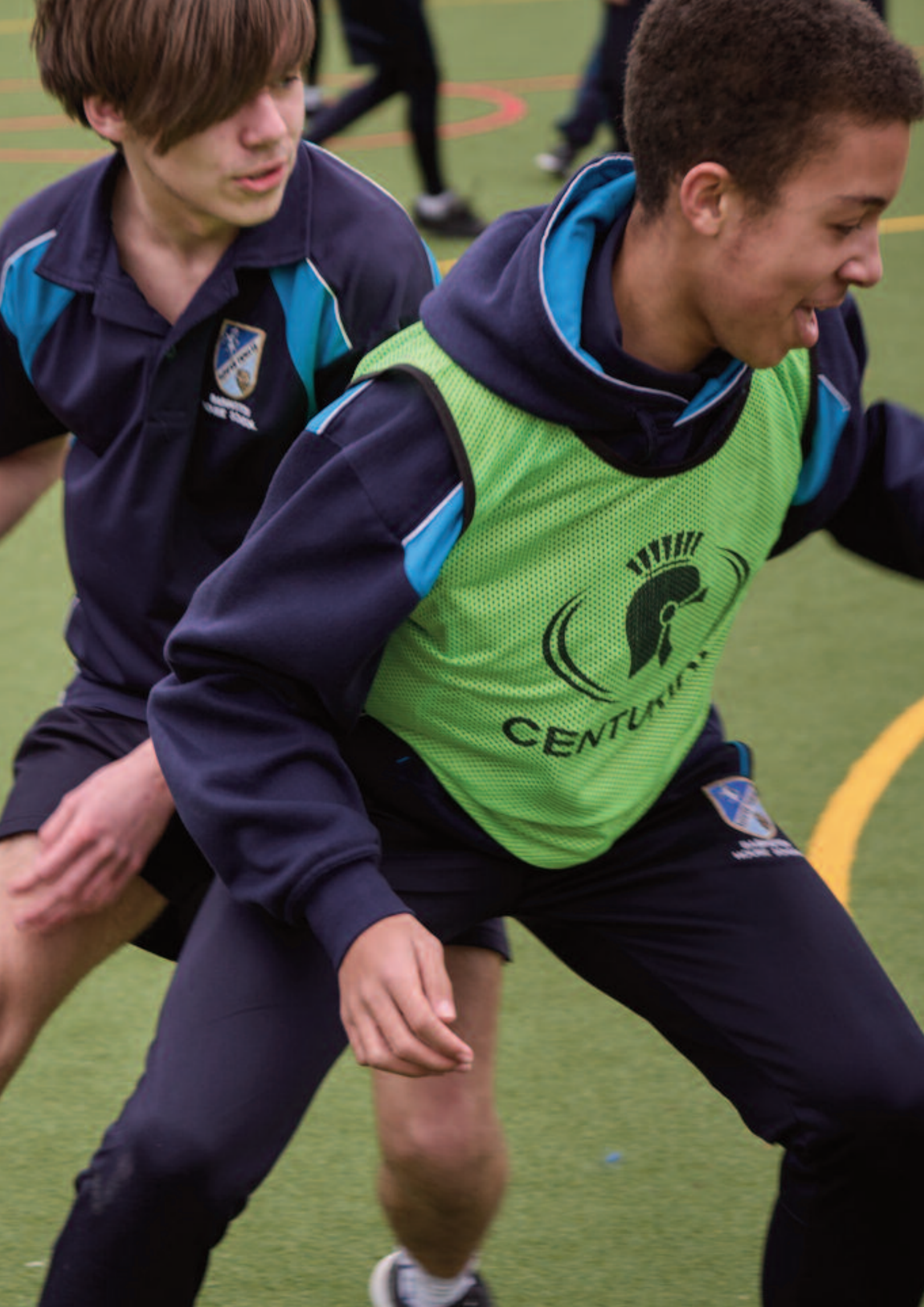
Course Requirements
Students taking this course should have a firm interest in the theory of Sport and Science. Students are assessed on their practical ability in three sports. At least one must be an individual sport and one a team sport. The course is 70% theory based and 30% practical.

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.

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

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 beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions:

- Christianity
- Islam

Paper 2:
A choice of four religious, philosophical and ethical themes. The themes that students are studying include:

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

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

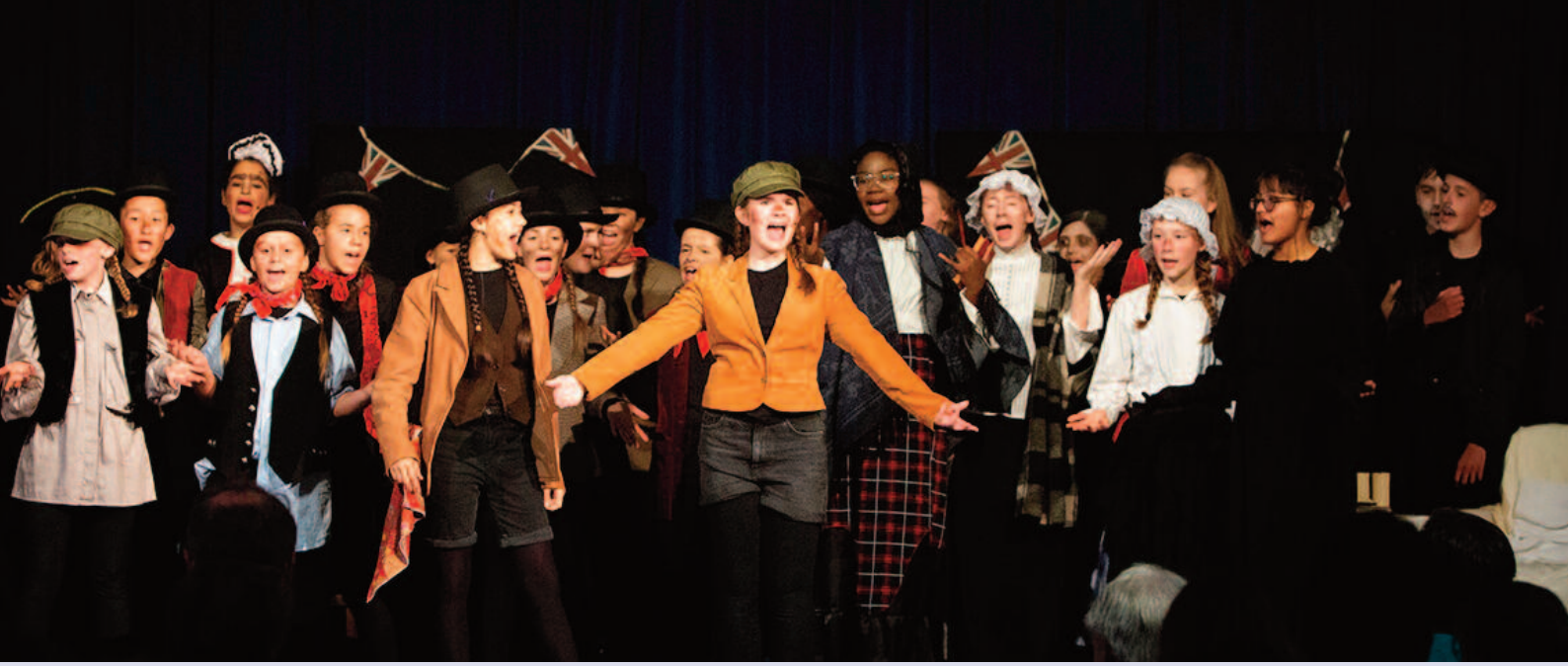
Paper 3: **Reading** (25%) Written examination - Foundation tier 45 minutes, Higher tier 1 hour

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.



Drama (Eduqas)

Course Description

GCSE Drama offers a rigorous and inspiring balance of practical performance and academic study.

Through high quality practical workshops and focussed theoretical exploration, students develop a sophisticated understanding of theatre as both an art form and a means of communication. The course encourages students to engage critically with performance styles while exploring the social, historical and cultural contexts that shape theatre practice.

Across the course, students develop as confident performers, thoughtful directors, and imaginative theatre makers. They gain a secure understanding of how meaning is created on stage and how performance choices communicate ideas to an audience, fostering creativity, analytical thinking, and collaborative skills that are highly valued across a wide range of academic disciplines and professions.

Course content

Component 1: Devising Theatre

- Create and perform an original piece of devised theatre in response to a stimulus.
- Collaborate, improvise and refine ideas.
- 40% devised performance and portfolio

Component 2: Performance from Text

- Perform two key extracts from a published play text
- Develop character and interpret dialogue.
- 20% scripted performance

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre

- Study a set text to explore characters, themes and design elements.
- Review and evaluate a live theatre production
- 40% written exam (1 hour 30 minutes)

Why Choose GCSE Drama?

- Develop creativity, confidence and collaboration
- Gain hands-on experience in acting, directing and design
- Visit professional theatre productions to enrich learning
- Enhance critical thinking and analytical skills
- Progress to A Level Drama and Performing Arts related courses and careers

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 two 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 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.

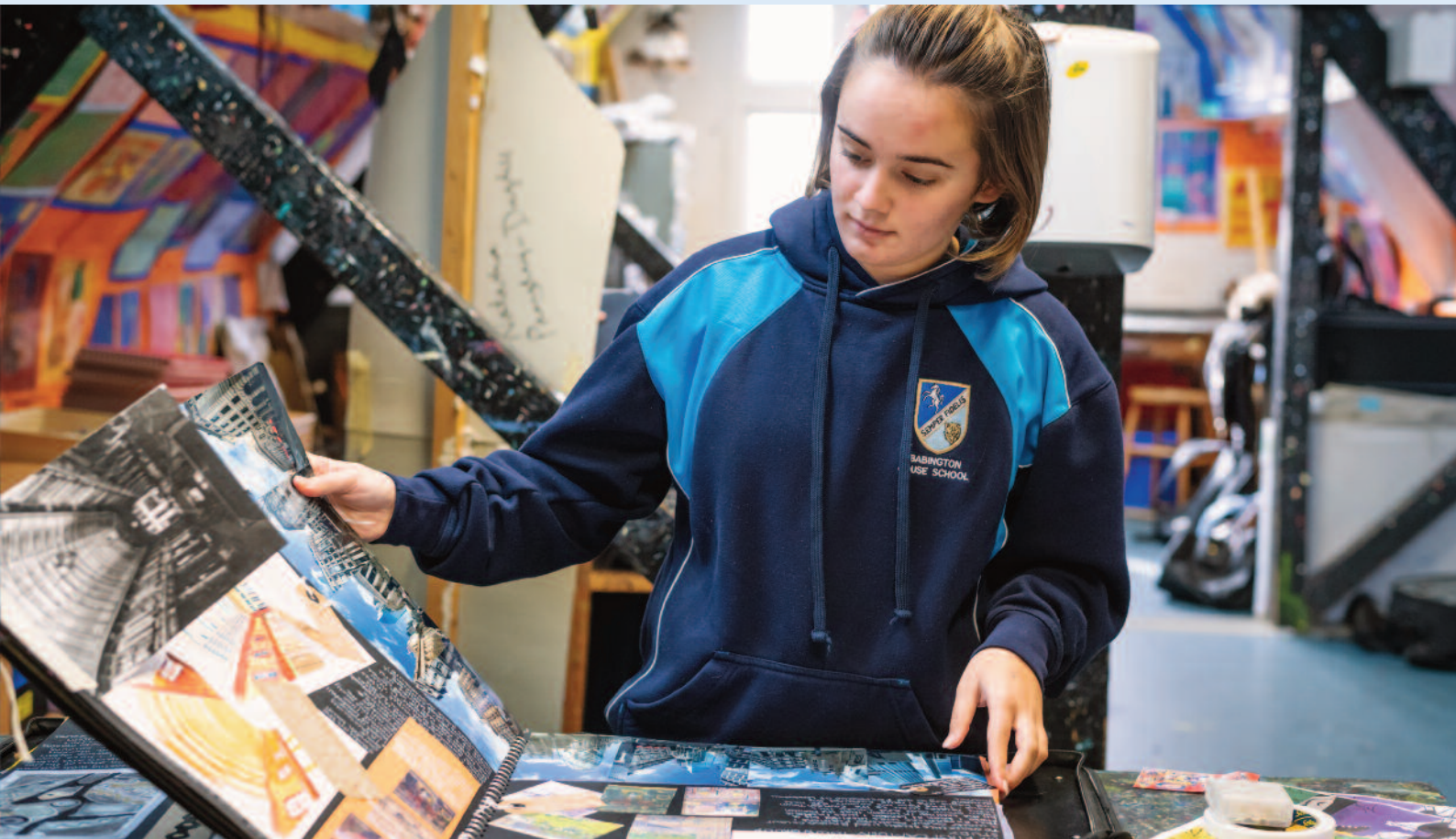
Course content

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.

Careers

Where will GCSE Art and Design take you? 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

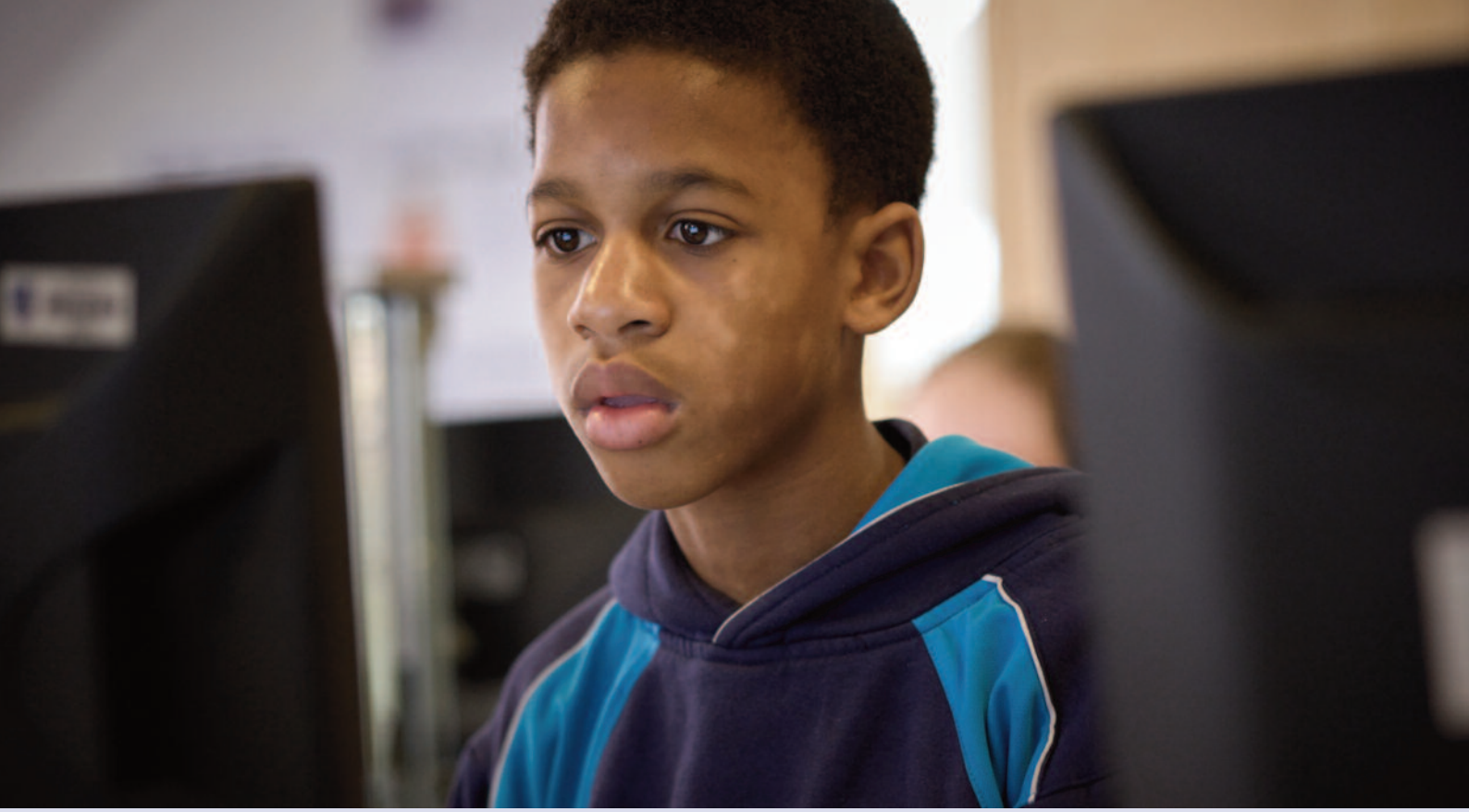
Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. Theme 2 also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions 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!

GCSE Economics (AQA)

Why study GCSE Economics?

Economics is a great choice for anyone with an interest in how the national and global economies work. GCSE Economics gives students the opportunity to understand global economic activity through the lens of consumers, producers, and governments. Students are able get to grips with the workings of the global economy and focus on real-world issues, as well as exploring the impact of economic activity on moral, ethical and sustainability issues.

What skills will I develop?

Students will develop numerical, analytical and communication skills. They will be able to make calculations from economic data, and interpret data presented in the form of graphs and charts. Students will be able to recognise and explain the potential limitations in using both quantitative and qualitative data.

What are quantitative skills in Economics?

These are the skills in which students of Economics must show competence in and include calculating percentages and percentage changes, including interest on savings, averages, totals, gross and net pay, constructing graphs from data including demand and supply curves, and interpreting data, graphs and charts to support and justify economic decisions.

How is the course structured?

Students will study two modules, How Markets Work and How the Economy Works. The first unit focuses on developing students understanding of economic foundations, before going on to study resource allocation, pricing, revenue and profit, competitive and concentrated markets as well as how and why markets fail. The second unit introduces students to the national economy, government objectives, the impact of government, trade, and global forces on the economy, as well as the role of money and financial markets.

How will I be assessed?

There are two examinations at the end of Year 11. Both exams are 1 hour 45 minutes in length and worth 80 marks. Both exams consist of section A and section B. In section A, students answer 10 multiple choice questions followed by a range of calculation, short and extended response questions. In section B, students answer five questions involving a mix of calculations, short and extended responses.

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 such as 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.

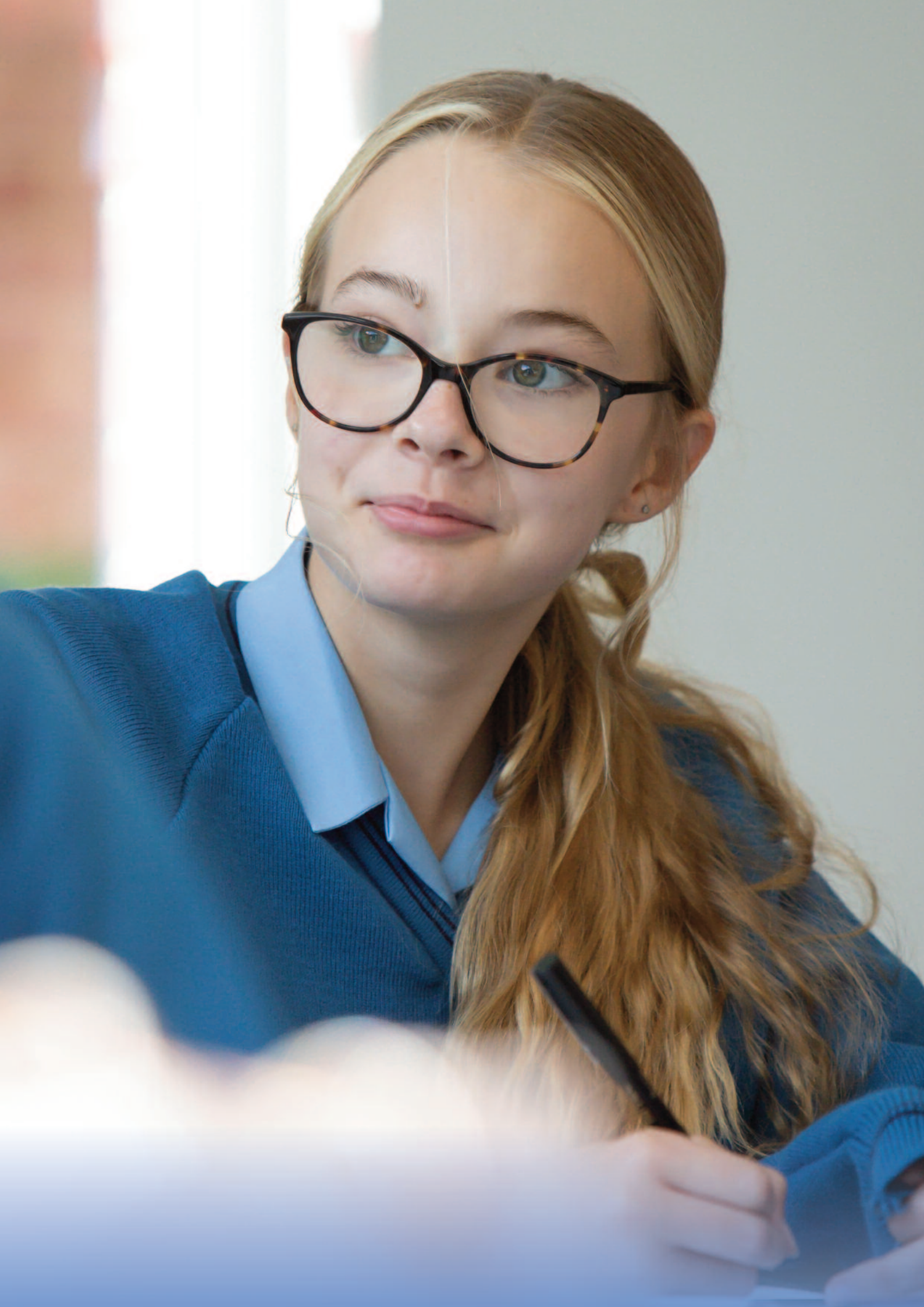
Area of Study	Set Works
Instrumental Music 1700-1820	J. S. BACH: 3rd Movement from 'Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 (D Major) (1719) Ludwig van Beethoven: 1st Movement from Piano Sonata No. 8 in C Minor 'Pathetique' (1798)
Vocal Music	Henry Purcell: Music For a While (1692) Queen: Killer Queen (from 'Sheer 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 choosing GCSE Music are strongly encouraged to opt for individual instrumental/vocal lessons either in school with one of our Visiting Music Teachers, or outside of school with a teacher of their own choice to support their learning for Unit 1 (Performing).

Your next steps…

Options Submission

Once you have considered the options available, your future aspirations and your interests, and you have spoken to subject teachers, please collect and complete the GCSE Options Submission form. This is available at the GCSE Options Evening, or from Ms Wiffen. Please complete and submit the form, either directly to Ms Wiffen or to the school office, by February half term.



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