Key Stage 4
Curriculum Options
2019-2021

Information, Advice and Guidance

Deadline for Submission of Option Choices:
Friday 8th February 2019
Curriculum Options at Cromwell Community College 2019-2021

Moving into Key Stage 4 gives you the opportunity to make a fresh start and begin to focus learning on the subjects that really interest you. In Key Stage 3 you will have followed the National Curriculum and have had no choice about what you study. In Key Stage 4 you must continue to follow some subjects as part of your core curriculum, but you can also begin to choose subjects that you especially enjoy or may find useful in the world of work.

We have designed a curriculum that we believe helps us to personalise your learning and will help us to meet the needs of our pupils. We also believe it is a curriculum that will, most importantly, allow you to be successful in reaching your targets and enable you to progress to the next stage in your education or training.

This is a time of great change in education and there is a rolling programme of reform to GCSEs. These changes are intended to add even more rigour to the qualifications achieved by young people in the UK. All GCSEs are linear: exams are taken at the end of two years rather than as modules throughout and for most, controlled assessment tasks have been removed. All of these GCSEs are graded on a 9-1 point scale with 9 being the highest grade. Vocational courses all now include an external exam as part of the specification and there have been significant changes to the rules regarding early entry and resits. Vocational based qualifications are graded distinction*, distinction, merit and pass.

In your PD lessons you have already done some work to help you think about your future plans and to consider the importance of good decision making. You should also make use of Kudos at www.cascaid.co.uk/luga. This site will help you to explore different education and careers options. Your tutor will be able to help you log into this if you haven’t already done so. As part of the options process you will have a short interview with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss your choices and ensure that they are the right ones for you. We will give you guidance about your subject choices and we expect that you will select courses that reflect your aspirations, skills and abilities.

It is important that you take great care in the selection of your option choices and to consider the full range of subjects available to you.

We hope you will find the information in this guide useful. Remember to ask for advice, if you are unsure of anything.

A Jones
Assistant Principal
## Options 2019-2021

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CORE
CURRICULUM

All pupils will follow these courses
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

Eduqas (WJEC) GCSE English Language
Eduqas (WJEC) GCSE English Literature

What will I study?

You will study English language and English literature, gaining a GCSE in both. The English language course involves writing in different ways for different audiences, giving information, expressing feelings and views, writing imaginatively and from experience and reading and responding to all types of writing and literary texts.

English literature involves the study of plays, poetry and prose, including Shakespeare, exciting contemporary authors and a selection of poetry from 1789 to the current day.

How will I learn?

Before undertaking written work, you will usually spend time in discussion and making notes to help you to reinforce what you have learned. You will have the opportunity to plan work and practise drafting ideas before the final exams.

How will I be assessed?

English Language:
You will be assessed by examination only.

Two written examinations:
Component 1 – 20th century literature reading, study and creative prose writing (1 hour 45 minutes). This is worth 40% of your final grade.

Component 2 – 19th and 21st century non-fiction reading, study and transactional writing (2 hours). This is worth 60% of your final grade.

Your achievement in spoken language will also be reported on as part of the qualification. This will take the form of presentations, speeches and responses to questions. This is a compulsory part of the qualification but does not form part of the final mark and grade.

English Literature:
You will complete two written exam papers:
Component 1 – Shakespeare (Macbeth) and poetry anthology (2 hours). This is worth 40% of your final grade.

Component 2 – 20th century prose / drama (Blood Brothers), 19th century prose (A Christmas Carol) and unseen poetry (2 hours 30 minutes). This is worth 60% of your final grade.
Will there be any controlled assessment?

There will be no controlled assessment. Both English language and English literature are linear and assessed by examination only at the end of Year 11.

Will there be any independent study?

For both courses you will certainly have to work independently, both in the classroom and at home, working conscientiously to prepare for your examinations in order to gain the best possible grades. You will receive help and advice from your teacher, but independent study is a necessary extension of English lessons and you must take responsibility for your own progress. Careful and thorough practice and revision is essential.

Where can this course take me?

A good qualification in English language and English literature shows that you can communicate ideas clearly, both orally and in writing. These skills are essential in further and higher education as well as the world of work.

Where can I find out more information?

Speak with Miss Garlick or any member of the English Faculty.

English language:


http://eduqas.co.uk/ENGLISH%20LEAFLET.pdf?language_id=1

English literature:


“There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written or badly written!”

Oscar Wilde
MATHEMATICS

Edexcel GCSE Mathematics 1MA1

What will I study?

This recently reformed GCSE has more demanding topics. There is a shift towards more problem solving and mathematical reasoning and a move away from the more traditional multi-part structured questions found in older courses. These changes are designed to help you gain a level of confidence and fluency that will provide a strong foundation for the rest of your learning and working lives. Having more time and a redistribution of topics will allow us to also prepare you for an additional GCSE. Whilst studying for the new GCSE in mathematics, some groups will be taught additional topics so they can also sit the GCSE statistics exam. For more details of this, see the statistics section of the booklet.

How will I learn?

You will be encouraged to find mathematics a meaningful, worthwhile and stimulating subject. You will be guided to apply skills you develop to everyday situations, so that you understand the part which mathematics plays in the world around you.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit a lengthy set of external exams at the end of the two years. There will be three 1 ½ hour exams at either foundation or higher level. One of these exams will be non-calculator. You will be expected to memorise formulae – a formula sheet is no longer provided. At regular intervals you will sit internal assessments designed to test your understanding and progress and to help you to identify your strengths and weaknesses. These internal assessments will help us determine which tier of entry you will take.

Will there be any controlled assessment?

Your GCSE courses in mathematics are non-coursework options. There is no controlled assessment.

Will there be independent study?

You will be expected to work independently and with other people to explore mathematics. You will certainly be expected to work at home. For all examinations, careful and thorough revision is very important.

What do I need for mathematics?

You should ensure that you have all necessary mathematical equipment for all lessons, including a scientific calculator.
Where can this course take me?

The understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes is fundamental to dealing with everyday problems, but it is more. The study of mathematics can be a goal within its own right, it is also a key factor in employment in commerce and industry and especially so in the fields of accountancy, finance, management and administration, marketing, science, engineering, ICT, computer studies, teaching, economics, statistics and many more.

Where can I find out more information?

You can talk to the teaching staff of the faculty, in particular, Mrs Morgan, the Head of Mathematics Faculty.

You could refer to the following websites:

The Institute of Mathematics and Its Application
www.ima.org.uk

The Mathematical Association
www.m-a.org.uk

Edexcel exam board

“Maths is like falling in love - at first it is simple but then it gets complicated.”
Anon
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Personal development is designed to help you become a confident, healthy and independent individual by:

- developing your confidence and responsibility and making the most of your abilities
- helping you to develop a healthy, safe lifestyle
- encouraging you to develop good relationships and respecting the differences between people

It includes information advice and guidance (IAG) which covers:

- self-development, including personal finance
- career exploration
- careers guidance and how to access it
- work related learning – work experience and enterprise activities
- developing employability skills

Personal development also covers many aspects of your citizenship education.

**What will I study?**

We constantly review our PD provision. You will cover a wide variety of topics including: relationships, racism, team work, healthy and safe lifestyles, road safety, E-safety, personal finance, sex education, drugs, work experience, career choices and life skills.

In the build up to work experience you will learn about applications, interviews and the world of work. In Year 11 you will receive lots of guidance to help you plan the next stage of your education and/or training.

**How will I learn?**

You will spend one lesson per fortnight, plus tutor time, working through these topics with your form tutor. Sometimes you may be taken off your usual timetable so that you can hear visiting speakers or watch theatre performances in College. Some of your other subjects will also help with topics from personal development.

**Will there be any independent study?**

You will not be set independent study for personal development.

**What do I need for personal development?**

Materials will be provided by the College but you will need to come with an open mind!
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All pupils follow a course in physical education as core PE.

What will I study?

Some of the following activities may be offered to you:

rugby, trampolining, badminton, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, handball, hockey, football, netball, fitness activities, cricket, athletics and rounders.

How will I learn?

You will be given instruction and guidance in all of these sports and activities. You will participate and be given the opportunity to improve your skills and your fitness.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed under these headings:

- Participation - how regularly you take part
- Organisation - of your kit and equipment
- Collaboration - how you are part of a team, as a team member and team leader
- Independence - how you work independently, without close supervision
- Practical - how you demonstrate your physical and/or practical skills

Will there be any independent study?

There will be no independent study for this course, but use of the enrichment programme is highly recommended. Attending extra clubs and training sessions will help you improve.

What do I need for physical education?

You will need the same kit as you have always needed through College. You will need to participate regularly.

All jewellery must be removed during practical PE (earrings cannot be covered with tape).

“The finish line is just the beginning of a whole new race.”

Anon
PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

AQA GCSE Religious Studies Specification A

What will I study?

You will study two religions in depth (Christianity and Buddhism) looking at beliefs, teachings and practices and their basis in sources of wisdom and authority. You will also look at the influence of the beliefs, teachings and practices on individuals, communities and societies. In addition to this, you will examine a variety of moral issues, consider and present your own views and discuss those of others. You will learn to appreciate the diversity of people’s cultures and spirituality while developing an empathy with, and understanding of, key life issues. In this way you will be able to make informed choices about the world you live in.

There are two parts to the course:

The study of religious beliefs, teachings and practices in:

Christianity and Buddhism.

AND

Thematic studies in religions, philosophical and ethical studies:

You will study four topics:
- Religion and life
- Religion peace and conflict
- Religion crime and punishment
- Religion human rights and social justice

How will I learn?

Your lessons will involve a whole range of different activities including discussions, role play, reflection, research and written work. Being able to show an awareness of current affairs will be a significant advantage through watching the news and / or reading the newspapers. You will need to be prepared to contribute to lessons in order to process your thoughts as you will need to establish your own opinion in the areas you will study.

How will I be assessed?

There will be a half-termly assessment at the end of each topic. However, only the written public exam counts towards the GCSE. You will sit two written exam papers at the end of Year 11, one for each unit. This will be a mixture of stimulus response, key facts and evaluation questions. You will also be required to have formed opinions on many of the moral issues raised. Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes and each accounts for 50% of your grade.
**Will there be any controlled assessment?**

There is no controlled assessment for this course.

**Will there be any independent study?**

Independent study will be essential.

You will be provided with revision notes, booklets and mind mapping practice as this will be essential to ensure progression. All independent study will be past examination questions to ensure coverage of material over the course.

**Where can this course take me?**

Religious studies develops the same academic skills as other humanities subjects. For example, the ability to find out information, make decisions and evaluate evidence. In the world of work, employers look for someone with an enquiring mind who has an appreciation of different viewpoints and the ability to make clear balanced decisions. These skills can all be developed through religious studies.

Religious studies is a valuable entry qualification into post 16 education, A levels, vocational courses and further education opportunities. Universities welcome pupils with religious studies qualifications onto a variety of courses.

**Where can I find out more information?**

Speak with Miss Smith.

[http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/rs/specifications/AQA-8062-SP-2016.PDF](http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/rs/specifications/AQA-8062-SP-2016.PDF)

Religious studies also covers many aspects of your citizenship education including human rights, the law, crime and young people, global issues and local action, as well as aspects of discrimination.

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"God not only plays dice, he also sometimes throws the dice where they cannot be seen."

**Stephen Hawking**
SCIENCE

AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

You will study for a double award (two GCSEs) in science unless you are selected for triple science by your teachers.

What will I learn?

In these GCSEs you will extend your knowledge of science and develop your practical and investigative skills.
In the biology element of this, topics include cell biology, organisation of the human body, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, and ecology.
In the chemistry element, topics include atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere, and using resources.
In the physics element of this, topics include energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure, forces, waves, and magnetism and electromagnetism.

Science is a practical subject and the course requires you to complete a minimum of 21 practical activities. You will be asked to answer questions about this work in the exams.

How will I be assessed?

This is a linear course with examinations being taken at the end of Year 11. There are two 75 minute written exams for each science (biology, chemistry and physics) in May/June of Year 11. At least 15% of the overall marks will come from questions based on the 21 practical activities. Maths also features heavily in the exams, with 20% of each paper being maths based.

Will there be any controlled assessment?

No. All science assessment is undertaken in the form of examinations at the end of Year 11.

Will there be any independent study?

Independent study will be set regularly in the form of past paper exam questions to help refine exam technique. There is also an expectation that you will study outside the classroom, revising for half termly assessments and completing tasks throughout the week to reinforce your learning. Revision sessions are available after school on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. A good quality revision guide and workbook will also be beneficial and these will be on sale to you throughout the year.
What do I need for science?

The science department will provide you with practical equipment and chemicals where required, exercise books and paper and safety equipment.

We expect you to come to lessons with: pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and a calculator.

Where can these courses take me?

Science opens lots of doors and there are many career options. Some of these include: sports science, computer science, forensic science, political science, environmental science, health science, exercise science, animal science, life science.

Where can I find out more?

You should speak to Mr Smy for more details or your own science teacher.

http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/specifications/AQA-8464-SP-2016.PDF

“A scientist is not a person who gives the right answers, a scientist is a person who asks the right questions.”

Anon
TRIPLE SCIENCE

GCSE Biology AQA
GCSE Chemistry AQA
GCSE Physics AQA

Pupils will be selected for the separate science route based on their ability and their work ethic when completing independent study. You will complete an assessment to decide if this is the right option for you to choose.

What will I study?

You will study the same topics as those covered in the GCSE trilogy science but more in-depth and with some extension topics and modules. This is beneficial to those who wish to study biology, chemistry or physics at A Level.

Science is a practical subject and the course requires you to complete a minimum of 24 practical activities. You will be asked to answer questions about this work in the exams.

How will I be assessed?

This is a linear course with examinations being taken at the end of Year 11. There are two 105 minute written exams for each science (biology, chemistry and physics) in May/June of Year 11. At least 15% of the overall marks will come from questions based on the 24 practical activities. Maths also features heavily in the exams, with between 10 and 30% of each paper being maths based.

Will there be any controlled assessment?

No. All science assessment is undertaken in the form of examinations at the end of Year 11.

Will there be any independent study?

Independent study will be set regularly in the form of past paper exam questions to help refine exam technique. There is also an expectation that you will study outside the classroom, revising for half termly assessments and completing tasks throughout the week to reinforce your learning. Revision sessions are available after school on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. A good quality revision guide and workbook will also be beneficial and these will be on sale to you throughout the year.

What do I need for science?

The science department will provide you with practical equipment and chemicals where required, exercise books and paper and safety equipment.
We expect you to come to lessons with: pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and a calculator.

**Where can these courses take me?**

Science opens lots of doors and there are many career options. Some of these include: sports science, computer science, forensic science, political science, environmental science, health science, exercise science, animal science, life science. If you complete the science BTEC Level 3 or a science A level, then you have the option to go to university.

**Where can I find out more?**

You should speak to Mr Smy for more details or your own science teacher.

http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/biology/specifications/AQA-8461-SP-2016.PDF
http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/chemistry/specifications/AQA-8462-SP-2016.PDF
http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/physics/specifications/AQA-8463-SP-2016.PDF

“Poets say science takes away from the beauty of the stars - mere globs of gas atoms. I, too, can see the stars on a desert night, and feel them. But do I see less or more?”

Richard Feynman
THE
OPTIONAL
SUBJECTS
ANCIENT HISTORY
OCR GCSE Ancient History

What will I study?

GCSE Ancient History has been designed to help learners develop their understanding of the ancient world and its legacy in today’s society. The course introduces students to the scarce evidence available to historians and how they are used to justify our belief in modern reconstructions of the ancient world:

Paper 1 – Greece and Persia.

This paper consists of a compulsory period study focusing on the Persian Empire from 559-465BC under Cyrus the Great, Cambyses II, Darius I and Xerxes I. This includes the conquest of Babylon, Cambyses’ defeat of Egypt, Darius’ campaigns against Athens including the Battle of Marathon, and Xerxes’ invasion of Greece culminating in the Battles of Thermopylae (topic of the film 300) and Salamis.

The second part of the paper is a depth study on the life of possibly the greatest ever military commander, Alexander the Great. This explores in details his character, campaigns, significant events and military leadership. We will also look at the differing explanations of his death and events surrounding it.

Paper 2: Rome and It’s Neighbours:

The compulsory study for this paper is the foundations of Rome during the period 753-440BC, looking at the kings of Rome and the early Republic with an emphasis on the most exciting events and characters. This begins with the legendary Romulus and Remus, Sullius’ reforms and Tarquinus’ tyranny, development of the consul and senate, Roman laws and society, finishing with the role of the Army in securing the Republic.

The depth study explores the Roman invasion of Britain in AD43 and the campaigns they fought to defeat the Celtic tribes, the policy of Romanisation that led to the development of Britannia as a province, changing lifestyles and infrastructure in a way that we would recognise today, as well as the resistance offered by the likes of Boudicca and Caratacus.

How is this course assessed?

100% exam, both papers are equally weighted.

What can this qualification lead to?

Students can go on to complete A level History and/or Ancient History as well as subjects such as English, Sociology and Philosophy. This subject is an ideal choice at GCSE as it develops a wide range of key skills that are cross-subject such as analysis of factors, reaching reasoned judgments, comprehension and evaluation. This counts as an EBACC subject.

Unhappy Persia, that in former age, Hast been the seat of mighty Conquerors, That in their prowessse and their policies, Have triumph over Africa.”

Christopher Marlowe, Tamburlaine
**ART AND DESIGN**

**Edexcel GCSE Art and Design (2AD01)**

**What will I study?**

You will study the art and design full course which can include fine art, photography and 3-dimensional design.

You will follow an exciting and demanding course of study and you will have the opportunity to design and construct a personal response using a variety of materials. You will create work journals and sketchbooks which demonstrate your skills, ideas, research and development and progression within the art and design topics. You will explore ideas from a variety of sources and investigate art movements, cultural influences and individual artists. This research will inform and strengthen outcomes and provide links and inspiration for your own work.

This course will be good for you if:
- You wish to undertake further studies in art and design, fine art, graphic design or video game design
- You are a creative, hands on, independent learner
- You study complementary subjects or want to follow a career for which art and design training is advantageous
- You have an interest in, and an aptitude for, the practical application of skills with manual dexterity

**How will I learn?**

You will investigate how sources inspire the development of ideas, drawing on:
- the work and approaches of artists, craftspeople or designers from contemporary and/or historical contexts, periods, societies and cultures
- contemporary and/or historical environments, situations or issues
- other relevant sources

You will develop an understanding of the ways in which meanings, ideas and intentions can be communicated through visual and tactile language, using formal elements, including:
- colour
- line
- form
- tone
- texture

All students must use drawing to support the development process within each chosen area of study.

Drawing is at the heart of art, craft and design – from initial sketches and detailed observations to wild mark-making and expressive lines – and forms a core element of the
practice of artists, craftspeople and designers.

You will develop and experiment with various materials building on your knowledge of how to use a whole range of different media including pencil, charcoal, graphite, pastels, paints including watercolour, gouache, acrylic and oil paint printing, inks, clay, Photography and Photoshop will also be explored as a means of recording and developing projects.

Whatever material is used, you will be encouraged to use this in a sensitive and skilful way, developing techniques and processes. Themes, set by your teacher, will stimulate a personal response that will enable you to express your own researched ideas. A portfolio is produced, that will show evidence of your ability to observe the world around you in all its forms; to record and analyse observations, to investigate different solutions.

Drawing, painting, sculpture, print making, graphic design, textiles, photography and Photoshop are all methods you will explore within GCSE art and design. Your lessons will take the form of either workshop sessions, 1:1 critiques, group exercises, independent research, study and development or teacher led sessions.

Students will be expected to demonstrate the ability to record their ideas, observations, insights and independent judgements visually and through informative written annotation, using suitable specialist vocabulary.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1
All work that is produced in College and at home will count towards a final GCSE grade. The coursework amounts to 60% of the assessment.

Unit 2
In Year 11 you will receive an exam paper with a theme. You will spend time producing a sketchbook of research, ideas, developments and experiments to explore the theme. You will then sit a 10 hour exam producing the piece you have designed within your research. This accounts for 40% of the grade. You will display your work in an exhibition which includes all preparatory studies and coursework.

Will there be any independent study?

Art and design is all about independent study. You need to be able to suggest ideas and be willing to research themes from first-hand experience. You will be expected to complete tasks at home and outside of lessons to build on workshops and techniques explored in class.

What do I need for art and design?

Many materials are provided by the art department but you will be expected to provide basic equipment such as a range of soft pencils (2B-6B), putty/plastic eraser and sketchbooks (A3).
Additional materials may be purchased at cost from the art department.

**Where can I find out more information?**

Speak with Miss North or Mrs Beale.


“The true work of art is born by the artist, a mysterious, enigmatic and mystical creation.”

Wassily Kandinsky
BUSINESS

EdExcel GCSE Business

What will I study?

Business skills are essential for success in employment and provide transferrable skills for future study. This course will enable you to explore real business issues and to learn how businesses work.

You will learn new knowledge and skills, apply that knowledge and analyse and evaluate it to make judgments about the business world. The key topics you will study are:

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Finance

The specification requires you to draw on your knowledge and understanding to:

- identify and explain business activity
- apply business concepts
- develop problem-solving and decision-making skills relevant to business
- investigate, analyse and evaluate business opportunities and issues
- make justified decisions using both qualitative and quantitative data

How will I learn?

You will produce a folder of notes with practice activities and exam questions during the two year course. Lessons will be a mixture of group and individual tasks. Research is from teacher resources, online and text books. There are visits and visitors into College to provide you with information.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by two exam papers of 1 hour 45 minutes, each worth 50% of the total grade. Both have the same format and include multiple choice questions, data response/case study questions and an extended case study question.

Paper 1: Investigating Small Business
Paper 2: Building a Business

Will there be any controlled assessment?

No. The course is entirely assessed by the linear exams
**Will there be any independent study?**

Yes, there is an expectation that you will take an interest in business news articles and be willing to bring these stories to the lesson for discussion. In addition to this, you will be regularly set practice exam questions and short tasks to complete for homework.

**What do I need for business and enterprise?**

A large part of Business is forming your own ideas and judgements on the actions of businesses and entrepreneurs and what you would do in a similar situation. You should have an interest in one day running your own business and may be asked to take part in enterprise activities to hone your skillset in the subject.

**Where can this course take me?**

The skills, knowledge and understanding you gain will be directly relevant to employment situations, improving your chance of success in the business sector. Immediate progression may be into employment or into further study, such as OCR Cambridge Technical Levels 2/3 or to A levels.

**Where can I find more information?**

Talk to past pupils or ask Mr Jones, Miss Potrykus or Mr Quarmby. In addition, further information is available on the website:


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“Great things in business are never done by one person. They’re done by a team of people.”

Steve Jobs
COMPUTER SCIENCE

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9 - 1) in Computer Science (1CP1)

As computing technology continues to advance rapidly, students are experienced in the use of mobile devices and application on a daily basis. Whereas ICT utilises software to help you gain the fundamentals of ICT within business, computer science explores the fundamentals that have helped shape today’s technology. Everyone knows how to use technology; but do you understand how it actually works?

What will I study?

The use of computing has an impact on many fields within the business world. This exciting and challenging course has been specifically designed to equip you with a good understanding of computer science. You will be able to program your own simple games, understand how computers communicate and develop computational thinking.

There is a huge range of topics covered by this course, including:
- algorithms and decomposition
- constants, variables and data types and structures
- scope of variables, constants, functions and procedures
- software development life cycle, prototyping and testing
- program flow control
- data representation
- computer structure, systems, hardware, CPU (central processing unit), memory and secondary storage
- error handling and problem solving
- network – client / server and web application concepts
- database concepts – query methods (SQL)
- the use of computer technology in society
- emerging trends and computational thinking

You will be taught to understand standard programming techniques, including the design of a coded solution to a problem and the ability to develop suitable algorithms. You will also design suitable input and output formats and identify suitable variables, structures and test procedures.

You will also be able to test your solutions.

This course is suitable for anyone who:
- is interested in writing computer code to create their own software
- wants a fundamental understanding of how a computer works, or
- is a confident mathematician and can approach problems logically
How will I learn?

Depending on the content and level of work being studied you will learn through a combination of whole class, group work and one to one teaching sessions. To ensure that the content is covered to the required level, you will also be expected to match the five hours of taught time with your own independent study at home. Further support will also be offered during after school catch-up or revision sessions.

How will I be assessed?

The course assessment consists of the following three components:

**Component 1**: Principles of Computer Science (Written examination: 1 hour and 40 minutes - 50% of the qualification). This paper consists of multiple-choice, short open response, open response and extended open response answer questions.

**Component 2**: Application of Computational Thinking (Written examination: 2 hours - 50% of the qualification). This paper is based on a scenario. It consists of short open response, open response and extended open-response answer questions.

Will there be any controlled assessment?

No, although you will undertake a 20 hour practical project as part of the qualification.

What do I need for computer science?

You need to be an independent learner, an analytical thinker and be prepared to work hard. You must be able to organise your own time, have a commitment to success and be able to review your own work and progress. Although a challenging course, it is also very rewarding.

Where can I find out more information?

For more information please ask your teacher or, alternatively, contact Mr Quarmby (Head of ICT and Business) at gquarmby@cromwell.cambs.sch.uk Furthermore, full course details can be found on the following website:


“There are ten kinds of people in the world – those who understand binary and those who don’t.”

Anon
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Edexcel GCSE Design & Technology

What will I study?

This course focuses on practical work - you will learn how to design and make products with creativity and originality using a range of materials and techniques.

For Component 1, you will learn about a range of materials such as plastics, woods and metals as well as modern ‘smart’ materials and the processes you can use to shape and join them. You will also study the real world of design and manufacturing and explore issues of sustainability.

For Component 2, the internally assessed unit, you will learn how to carry out an extended designing and making project that will showcase the skills and knowledge you have developed.

You will learn new making skills including computer-aided-manufacture (CAM) using the latest equipment and machines.

How will I learn?

Year 10 will be spent undertaking a series of stimulating ‘design and make’ assignments of various lengths enabling you to learn the skills needed. Other know-how and understanding will be taught alongside these mini projects so that nearly all the knowledge required for the final exam in Year 11 is learned in Year 10. This gives plenty of time in Year 11 to work on your extended designing and making project and to develop your skills further.

How will I be assessed?

You will be continually assessed during the course. You will know what you have done well and what you can improve in order to achieve the highest marks. In Year 11 you will complete the designing and making project worth 50%, which you will be able to continue to edit and improve right up to the final weeks of the course.

You will complete one final written exam which is worth the other 50% of your final grade.

Will there be any controlled assessment?

The controlled assessment unit described above will be completed in class during Years 10 and 11. The portfolio that goes alongside the practical work will total 20-30 A3 pages. You will have a range of starting points to choose from and you will be given lots of guidance about which theme offers the most scope. These themes range from designing jewellery or decorative tableware, to lamps or furniture.
Will there be any independent study?

Throughout Years 10 and 11 you will be required to complete set homework tasks but the majority of the controlled assessments must be completed in supervised class time.

What do I need for this course?

Your own range of simple graphics equipment (ruler, pencils, coloured pencils and pastels, black fine liners, rubber) would ensure you are always equipped for lessons and independent study.

Where can this course take me?

The course provides an excellent route into A Level Product Design, apprenticeships and BTEC Level 3 Engineering. Previous pupils have gone on to work in graphic design, product design, engineering, architecture and even teaching!

Where can I find out more information?

Talk to Mr King in the Technology Faculty for more information.


“Design is not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works.”

Steve Jobs
What will I study?

Drama provides a fantastic curriculum to ignite and engage your creativity, passion and interests. The course allows you to explore your own interests and develop skills in either performance or design. It also provides freedom to experiment and take risks with your work while developing your own style.

The aims of this specification enable you to apply your knowledge and understanding of the subject when making, performing and responding to drama. You will explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context, including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created. At the same time, you will develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performances and work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas.

How will I learn?

OCR drama has been designed to be a practical, engaging and creative specification to study. It will provide opportunities to understand and create drama as a practical art form in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through informed artistic choices.

You will study drama in an academic setting, interrogating this art form and applying your knowledge and understanding to the process of creating and developing drama and to your own performance work.

How will I be assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Overview</th>
<th>Content Overview</th>
<th>Percentage of total GCSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Devising drama</td>
<td>You will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create your own devised drama.</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presenting and performing texts</td>
<td>You will develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text.</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama: Performance and response</td>
<td>You will explore practically a performance text to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of drama. You will analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Will there be any independent study?**

Yes. As with all GSCEs, drama is challenging and you will need to study and research in your own time, plan presentations of your findings and learn lines in preparation for performances. You will need to create and commit to rehearsal schedules at lunch and after school as deadlines approach.

**What do I need for drama?**

A love of drama is essential! You need to be enthusiastic, motivated and prepared to perform in front of audiences of all ages. Team work and the ability to co-operate with a range of people: listening to, sharing creative ideas and decision making are very important in drama. You will need to meet deadlines and work under pressure.

**Where can the course take me?**

Students who study drama develop their skills in creativity, team work, independent learning and communication. Employers, colleges and universities are looking for this skillset. The ability to ‘perform’ confidently in an interview situation is very important and those students who have studied drama become confident communicators in a variety of situations. For students who want to take drama further this course can provide progression routes to a Level 3 BTEC in performing arts, A level theatre studies (alongside other A levels) then onto university or apprenticeships in the ‘cultural industries’.

**Where can I get more information?**

Speak with Mrs King.


“All the world’s a stage and all the men and women merely players.”

*William Shakespeare*
ENGINEERING

WJEC Level 2 Award in Engineering

What will I study?

This course focuses on practical work - you will learn how to design and make engineered products with creativity and originality using a range of materials and techniques. You will get a real taste of what the engineering sector is like.

For the first internally assessed unit, you will analyse an engineered product and then design a similar product. This will involve drawing and explaining ideas and result in the production of professional engineering drawings using CAD. Finally, the final product will need to be evaluated in detail.

The second internally assessed unit involves the making of a product using a wide range of engineering equipment and processes. This will mean working accurately to a set of provided engineering drawings, planning each stage and ensuring high quality.

The third unit is the exam which tests your knowledge of materials, equipment and processes as well as some maths skills such as working out areas and volumes.

You will learn new making skills and processes including computer-aided-manufacture (CAM) and use the latest equipment and machines.

How will I learn?

Year 10 will be spent undertaking a series of stimulating ‘design and make’ assignments of various lengths enabling you to learn the skills required. Other know-how and understanding will be taught alongside these mini projects so that nearly all the knowledge required is learned in Year 10. This gives plenty of time in Year 11 to work on the designing and making units of the controlled assessment and to develop your skills further.

How will I be assessed?

You will be continually assessed during the course. You will know what you have done well and what you can improve in order to achieve the highest marks. The designing and making units of the controlled assessment will count for 75% of your final grade. The exam makes up the other 25%.

You will be able to edit and improve the work that forms 75% of your final grade right up to the deadline! You can achieve a pass, merit, distinction or distinction*.

Will there be any controlled assessment?

You will complete two internally assessed assignments based on a context. The internal
assessments will be monitored and marked by your teacher and moderated by the exam board. The exam is set and marked by the exam board. The two controlled assessment units described above will be completed in class during Years 10 and 11.

**Will there be any independent study?**

Throughout Years 10 and 11 you will be required to complete set homework tasks but the majority of the controlled assessment must be completed in supervised class time.

**What do I need for this course?**

Your own range of simple graphics equipment (ruler, pencils, coloured pencils, black fine liners, rubber) would ensure you are always equipped for lessons and independent study.

**Where can this course take me?**

The course provides an excellent route into A Level Product Design, apprenticeships and BTEC Level 3 engineering. Previous pupils have gone on to work in engineering, product design and even teaching!

**Where can I find out more information?**

Talk to Mr King in the Technology Faculty for more information.


*“One person’s ‘Magic’ is another person’s engineering.”*  
Robert A Heinlein
FRENCH

Edexcel GCSE French

This course is suitable for anyone who has an interest in developing their linguistic skills and for those who would like to know more about other cultures.

What will I study?

You will be able to discuss a broad range of topics from your family and friends to the world around you. You will also study the culture of French speaking countries across the globe and think about your plans for the future. Many of the topics build on the Key Stage 3 curriculum, which means you have an opportunity to perfect familiar language as well as expand and develop your vocabulary and skills.

How will I learn?

You will learn to write and speak but also to read and understand the language. The four skills are equally weighted, and, as you progress, you will learn the grammar and structures necessary to use your French effectively in speech and writing.

How will I be assessed?

The course has been designed to ensure that you are able to develop your listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation skills.

Each skill will be tested in a separate examination with the exception of translation, which is split across the reading and writing papers. Each paper is worth 25% of your final result. The speaking examination consists of three tasks: a role play, a photo description and general conversation with your language teacher. This will be recorded and then sent to the exam board for marking.

Will there be any controlled assessment?

No.

Will there be any independent study?

Independent study is an integral part of the course and will be set regularly. Routine vocabulary learning is essential to ensure success in the examinations. You will also have access to online interactive resources to help you build your skills and confidence.

Where can this course take me?

A language will help you communicate in this increasingly globalised society. As well as being essential for certain careers, for instance travel and tourism or interpreting, it is a highly valued
and sought after skill in business, law, journalism, accountancy, secretarial or military jobs – to name but a few examples.

Where can I find out more information?

Miss Crumpton is happy to provide more information.


“A different language is a different vision of life.”

Federico Fellini
AQA GCSE Geography (8035)

What will I study?

Geography will help you gain knowledge of our world and an understanding of current events. You will appreciate different cultures in this country and other parts of the world, and become aware of the challenges and inequalities of our physical and human environments. The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography helps explain why, and helps us to prepare for those changes. You will learn a range of key skills and study three themes.

Theme 1: Living with the physical environment

Section A – The challenge of natural hazards – you will study tectonic (earthquakes) and weather hazards, and climate change.

Section B – The living world - includes the study of ecosystems, tropical rainforests and cold environments

Section C – Physical landscapes in the UK – in this unit you will learn more about the country you live in. Studying the physical landscapes, including upland and lowland areas and river systems in the UK. You will also investigate coastal landscapes including processes, landforms and management, and also glacial landscapes including processes, landforms and management.

Theme 2: Challenges in the human environment

This unit focuses on the dynamic nature of human processes and environments.

Section A – Urban issues and challenges – you will study urbanisation and find out why so many people live in cities and the challenges, problems and opportunities these create.

Section B – The changing economic world – this unit will cover economic development and look at strategies that can be used to reduce development gaps. It will also look at the opportunities and challenges created by rapid development and focus on the UK economy.

Section C – The challenge of resource management – you will study resource management and look at how the changing demands of the supply and consumption of resources in the UK create challenges and opportunities. You will also look at the issues around water supply and sustainable solutions.

Theme 3: Geographical applications

You are required to complete two geographical enquiries (fieldwork) outside the classroom. You will visit the north Norfolk coast and Cambridge as part of this. You will develop your geographical skills and apply your subject knowledge to particular issues. You will answer
questions about this in your exam.

How will I learn?

By developing and demonstrating key skills, you will study using case studies and examples., developing deep knowledge and understanding of issues, including the challenges and opportunities for people and communities. The emphasis is on problem solving and enquiry throughout.

How will I be assessed?

You will complete 3 written exam papers at the end of the Year 11:

**Paper 1 – Living with the physical (35% of the GCSE)** 1 hour 30 minutes  
**Paper 2 – Challenges in the human (35% of the GCSE)** 1 hour 30 minutes  
**Paper 3 – Geographical applications (30% of the GCSE)** 1 hour 15 minutes

A pre-release resources booklet will be made available 12 weeks before the paper 3 exam and we will work through this together to prepare for the exam, becoming familiar with the resources.

Will there be any independent study?

The course will require you to take the issues introduced in class further and you will be encouraged to read up to date examples and complete independent study tasks to consolidate your learning.

What do I need for geography?

You should have an enquiring mind and want to work hard to find out more about the world in which we live. It is good to have a desire to examine issues such as how can we reduce inequalities in the world and how we can face up to the environmental threats that challenge us today. If you have questions and queries about the world we live in, then geography is for you!

Where can this course take me?

The skills you gain from geography make you of potential interest to a wide range of employers who will value your team work, decision making, research and enquiry skills. Geography is a gateway to so many opportunities including marketing, advertising, accountancy, law, sales, finance, education, environmental awareness, civil service, foreign office, travel industry and journalism.
Where can I find out more information?

Mr Pearson, Mr Smith and Miss Barnett can give you more advice and you can find out more on the AQA website.

http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035
http://www.cromwellcc.org.uk/Curriculum/Geography/

“Without geography, you are nowhere.”

Anon
Edexcel GCSE German

This course is suitable for anyone who has an interest in developing their linguistic skills and for those who would like to know more about other cultures. Some of you may have some experience of learning German already, but do not worry if you have not done German before.

What will I study?

You will be able to discuss a broad range of topics from your family and friends to the world around you. You will also study the culture of German speaking countries across the globe and think about your plans for the future. You will have an opportunity to perfect familiar language you may have learned in Key Stage 3 as well as expand and develop your vocabulary and skills.

How will I learn?

You will learn to write and speak but also to read and understand the language. The four skills are equally weighted and, as you progress, you will learn the grammar and structures necessary to use your German effectively in speech and writing.

How will I be assessed?

The course has been designed to ensure that you are able to develop your listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation skills.

Each skill will be tested in a separate examination, with the exception of translation, which is split across the reading and writing papers. Each paper is worth 25% of your final result. The speaking examination consists of three tasks: a role play, a photo description and general conversation with your language teacher. This will be recorded and then sent to the exam board for marking.

There is no controlled assessment.

Will there be any independent study?

Independent study is an integral part of the course and will be set regularly. Routine vocabulary learning is essential to ensure success in the examinations. You will also have access to online interactive resources to help you build your skills and confidence.

Where can this course take me?

A language will help you communicate in this increasingly globalised society. As well as being essential for certain careers, for instance travel and tourism or interpreting, it is a highly valued and sought after skill in business, law, journalism, accountancy, secretarial or military jobs – to name but a few examples.
Where can I find out more information?

Miss Crumpton is happy to provide more information.


“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.”

Frank Smith
HAIR AND BEAUTY

VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Hair and Beauty Therapy

This course will enable you to gain both the theoretical, academic skills and the important practical skills needed for progression. You will develop a real understanding of what it is to work in this sector.

What will I study?

The VTCT Level 2 certificate in hairdressing and beauty therapy has been designed to support you to develop a broad and comprehensive understanding and knowledge of the hair and beauty sector. This qualification will develop academic and study skills that will support progression within the hair and beauty sectors.

The combination of units you will follow is:

Two mandatory units:

Unit 1: Understanding the hair and beauty sector
In this unit you will learn about the structure of the industry, the products used and the services and treatments provided.

Unit 2: Hair and beauty research project
For this unit you will choose a topic and conduct research into it.

You will also complete two optional units:

Unit 1: Hair and beauty science
You will develop an understanding of the science of hair and beauty products. You will also learn about the anatomy of the skin and hair.

Unit 2: Responding to hair and beauty brief
You will be set a specific design brief relating to the hair and beauty industry and you will be expected to present your ideas.

You will be able to make the most of our state of the art facilities provide an excellent learning opportunity and create a realistic working environment.

Who is the course for?

This qualification is most suited for learners wishing to pursue a career in the hair and beauty industry or who want to work in related fields such as the media or theatre.
What entry requirements are there?

To have an interest in the hair and beauty industry. A short interview may be required.

How is my work assessed?

The level 2 course is assessed by producing a portfolio of course work which is marked and assessed by the awarding body. There is also an online exam.

Will there be any independent study?

You will be expected to complete independent study on a weekly basis.

Costs

There will be a cost of £20.00 for the purchase of a tunic, style and colour to be agreed by staff.

Where will this course take me?

If you successfully achieve this qualification, you could progress to higher level vocationally-related qualifications. You will be able to progress to the post 16 hair and beauty options at Cromwell.

There are additional qualifications which these courses could lead to, for example, fashion and photographic make-up, nail technology, media make up, massage and aromatherapy.

Successful completion of this course could also lead to apprenticeships in hairdressing, barbering, beauty therapy and nails services. The qualification may also be useful to those seeking to progress to qualifications in a range of industries including complementary and alternative therapies, spa therapy, fashion and photography, theatre and media, sport and active leisure.

Where can I find out more information?

Talk to Mrs Morton in the hair and beauty salons.

“Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.”
HISTORY

Edexcel GCSE History

What will I study?

This subject covers a range of topics:

You will complete a thematic study:

- Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and a study of a historic environment Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, Policing and the Inner City.

Discover how law and order has evolved over a thousand years, from the earliest methods of policing, to the brutal trials and gruesome executions. This topic will give a fascinating insight into how our legal system developed. In the Whitechapel section, you will learn about the misery of living in the East End of London under the shadow of the notorious serial killer, Jack the Ripper.

You will also complete a British in-depth study:

- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88

You will study the crisis of 1066 and battles for the English throne which resulted. You will find out how the Normans successfully conquered England and the harsh methods they used to control it.

In addition, you will complete a period study:

- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

In this topic you will study the emergence of the Superpowers, The USA and the Soviet Union after the Second World War. You will witness the growing conflict between them under the constant threat of nuclear annihilation which made up the period known as the Cold War.

Finally, you will complete a modern in-depth study:

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

You will study the impact of the First World War on the defeated Germany and it attempts to become a stable democracy. You will observe the turmoil in Germany as it tries to deal with both political and economic crisis before it descends into a Nazi dictatorship run by Adolf Hitler.

How will I learn?

You will have the opportunity to indulge your passion for History with a wide range of resources available to you, ranging from textbooks to a YouTube channel. You will be encouraged to expand your learning through independent learning and through organised and informative lessons.
How will I be assessed?

You will complete three written exams.

**Paper 1:** Thematic study and historic environment  
Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes (30% of the qualification)

**Paper 2:** Period study and British depth study  
Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes (40% of the qualification)

**Paper 3:** Modern depth study  
Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes (30% of the qualification)

Is there any independent study?

The ability to revise effectively and study independently are vital to success in this subject.

What do I need for history?

A thirst for knowledge and love of history.

Where can this course take me?

GCSE history is a solid basis for many A-level and degree level subjects as well as history; for example, politics, law, economics and sociology. It also goes well with subjects such as English and languages. It is a traditional subject which is well respected by universities and employers.

There are many career opportunities with history: law and accountancy, travel and tourism, museums, business management, the media industry, libraries and archives, government research, academic research and teaching.

Where can I find more information?

You can ask any history teachers, Mr Knowles, Mr Pearson, Miss Ball, Mr Sugden, Miss Milnthorpe or Mr Bottrill.


“History is a guide in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are.”

Anon
HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering

What will I study?

You will learn information and skills that are relevant to any job that requires you to work with food and you will develop a wide variety of advanced practical skills. Catering needs attention to detail and a professional approach to producing dishes of a high standard is very important. The key topics covered are:

- The hospitality industry
- Hygiene and safety
- Nutrition
- Menu planning
- Catering for special diets

The course is split into two units:

Unit 1 - The Hospitality and Catering Industry. This unit develops your understanding of the industry. You will learn about different establishments and providers, job opportunities, meeting customer needs, legislation and the ways in which these outlets operate. This unit is assessed by an online examination.

Unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in Action. This unit requires you to safely plan, prepare, cook and present dishes for different groups and their special dietary needs.

How will I learn?

You will have a variety of practical and written tasks in Year 10 to build up skills and knowledge ready for the controlled assessment and exam in Year 11.

How will I be assessed?

You will be continually assessed during the course. You will know what you have done well and what you can improve in order to achieve the highest marks. The practical cooking internally assessed unit will count for 60% of your final grade. The exam makes up the other 40%.

Your Unit 2 assessment is carried out in exam conditions. You will have carried out a practice assignments and should be confident in what is required. This assessment takes 9 hours to complete. You will be graded: pass, merit, distinction or distinction*.

Will there be any controlled assessment?

For Unit 1 you will complete an on-line external assessment lasting 90 minutes. The Unit 2 controlled assessment task is carried out at the start of Year 11. This will be based
on a task set by the exam board. It is marked by your teacher and moderated by the exam board.

**Will there be any independent study?**

Throughout Years 10 and 11 you will be required to complete set homework tasks. These are important to help you make notes in preparation for your assessments. You may also be asked to carry out practical cooking tasks at home. Controlled assessments must be completed in supervised class time.

**What do I need for this course?**

You will need to provide ingredients for your practical work and containers to take your food home in. It is also desirable to have a white/or black chef’s jacket. Good organisation is important as you will need to bring your ingredients in each week.

**Where can this course take me?**

The WJEC Level 1/2 award in hospitality and catering has been designed to support learners who want to learn about this vocational sector. It is most suitable as a foundation for further study, providing a core depth of knowledge and a range of specialist and general skills that will support your progression to further learning and employment. Learners completing the Level 1/2 award in hospitality and catering may be interested in progressing to Level 3 qualifications. There are also a wide variety of food, nutrition and hospitality related courses available at university or apprenticeships available.

**Where can I find out more information?**

Talk to Mrs Hall or Mr King for more information.


"One cannot think well, live well, sleep well, if one has not dined well."

*Virginia Wolf*
ICT

OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Information Technologies

What will I study?

No matter what profession you opt for in the future, an understanding of ICT is an essential core skill. As technology continues to advance rapidly, it is essential that ICT skills are acquired that are not only suitable for future employment, but also everyday life. This course will enable you to develop your computing knowledge and skills in real life scenarios.

Areas that will be covered include:

- the use of e-mail within a business context
- software application use including spreadsheets (Excel), presentation (PowerPoint), DTP (Publisher) and databases (Access)
- data validation, verification and security
- investigating how technology is utilised within business context
- understanding the desktop environment
- how devices and software support learning disabilities
- hardware and software
- social and environmental impact of technology
- multimedia components and software

The course consists of 2 units:

R012 - Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions

Unit outline
- 1 hour 45 minutes written examination
- 80 marks (120 UMS)
- OCR-set and marked
- Exam assessment in June 2018 and then every January and June

Unit content
- LO1: Understand the tools and techniques that can be used to initiate and plan solutions
- LO3: Understand how data and information can be collected, stored and used
- LO4: Understand the factors to be considered when collecting and processing data and storing data/information
- LO6: Understand the different methods of processing data and presenting information.

R013 - Developing technological solutions

Unit outline
- Approximately 20 hours
- 80 marks (120 UMS)
- An assignment set by OCR, marked by teachers and moderated by OCR
- The assignment will include a context and set of tasks
- A new assignment will be released each series and published on the OCR website
- Assessment series in June 2018 and then in two series each year (January and June)

**Unit content**

- LO2: To be able to initiate and plan a solution to meet an identified need
- LO5: To be able to import and manipulate data to develop a solution to meet an identified need
- LO7: To be able to select and present information in the development of the solution to meet an identified need
- LO8: To be able to iteratively review and evaluate the development of the solution

**How will I learn?**

You will learn through a combination of class, group and one to one teaching sessions depending on the content and level of work studied.

**Will there be any independent study?**

You should organise your own time and use independent study opportunities to ensure you are up to date. You will be set regular homework.

**What do I need for ICT?**

You need to be an independent learner, an analytical thinker and be prepared to work hard. You must be able to organise your own time, have a commitment to success and be able to review your own work and progress.

**Where can this course take me?**

The skills, knowledge and understanding you gain will be directly relevant to employment situations, improving your chance of success in the ICT sector. Immediate progression may be into employment or into further study, such as OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 which we offer at the college.

**Where can I get more information?**

For more information please ask your teacher or contact Mr Quarmby gquarmby@cromwell.cambs.sch.uk. Further details can be found on the course website. [http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/vocational-education-and-skills/cambridge-nationals-information-technologies-level-1-2-j808/](http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/vocational-education-and-skills/cambridge-nationals-information-technologies-level-1-2-j808/)

“Computers have become the most empowering tool we’ve ever created. The ongoing development of ICT in all its forms and applications is driving radical change in our lives, with the constant creation of new products and services, new ways of conducting business, new markets and investment opportunities, and new social and cultural expression”.

Bill Gates
MEDIA STUDIES

Eduqas GCSE Media Studies

What will I study?

You will develop your media literacy through a comprehensive exploration of:

- **media language**: how the media through their forms, codes and conventions communicate meanings
- **representation**: how the media portray events, issues, individuals and social groups
- **media industries**: how the media industries' processes of production, distribution and circulation affect media forms and platforms
- **audiences**: how media forms target, reach and address audiences, how audiences interpret and respond to them, and how members of audiences become producers themselves

You will study a range of different media forms including:

- Advertising, film marketing, magazines, music video, newspapers, online, social and participatory media, radio, television, video games.

This will enable you to develop knowledge and understanding of a broad range of media forms and products, studying audio-visual, text-based and online forms, as well as exploring the inter-relationships between them.

How will I learn?

You will respond to media texts through annotation and essay responses, showing understanding of the messages they convey and the values they promote. You will also explore and make media products, these two activities are fundamentally related.

How will I be assessed?

There are three components. Two are assessed through examinations (70%). The other unit is internally assessed coursework (30%).

**Component 1: Exploring Media Language and Representation**

**Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes – 40% of qualification**

The following forms are studied through contemporary examples chosen by the exam board:

- Newspapers (currently *The Sun* and *The Guardian*)
- Advertising and marketing (currently *Quality Street* and *Sport England*.)
- Magazines (Currently *Pride* and *GQ*)
- Radio (currently *The Archers*)
- Video Games (currently *Pokemon Go*)
- Film marketing (currently *Spectre* and *The Man with the Golden Gun*)
Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes – 30% of qualification

This component also requires you to study the influence of relevant social, cultural, industry and historical contexts on media products. The forms and products set for study are as follows:

- television – one contemporary programme set by Eduquas from a choice of genres: crime drama or sitcom (currently ‘The IT Crowd’) and one television programme form the past of the same genre (currently ‘Friends’)
- music – two contemporary music videos and online media (currently Pharrell Williams and Katy Perry) and one music video from the past (currently ‘Rio’ by Duran Duran)

Component 3: Creating Media Products
Internally assessed: 30% of qualification

In this component, you will create an individual media production in one form for an intended audience. For example, you may be asked to create a magazine front cover and a double page spread in a genre/style of your choice, aimed at teenagers.

Will there be any independent study?

Independent study is an integral part of this course and you will be expected to be an effective independent learner. Meeting deadlines is essential.

What do I need for media studies?

Learning and assessment for GCSE media studies is mainly dependent upon traditional literacy skills and you should be prepared for this before choosing the option—there is a lot of analytical writing and extended project work to do. Although there is a practical element, it should not be regarded as a predominantly practical subject.

Where can this course take me?

If you are interested in working in the media, whether in advertising, publishing, journalism, film or TV, this course would provide you with a good foundation upon which to build the next stage of your education.

Where can I find more information?

Speak to Mrs Priest or look at the eduqas website: http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies/gcse/

“One reason that cats are happier than people is that they have no newspapers.”
Gwendolyn Brooks
MUSIC

Eduqas GCSE Music

This course is aimed at anyone with a love for music, a passion for performing and a desire to learn more about where music comes from.

What will I study?

You will be expected to perform, compose and listen to a wide range of music.

There are four areas of study which are as follows:

Musical forms and structures
You will learn about how music has developed over the centuries and how music is structured. You will be introduced to music theory and develop these skills.

Music for ensemble
You will study music for small groups, looking at chamber music, musical theatre and jazz and blues.

Film music
This unit looks at film music. You will learn how composers create music to represent a particular mood or scene. You will learn about how musical elements can affect the way music sounds and about the composers behind some of the greatest movie soundtracks of all time.

Popular music
This unit looks at a variety of different popular styles, including rock and pop, bhangra and other types of fusion music.

There are two set works to study as part of the listening examination - Mozart Minuet and Trio from Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and Since You’ve Been Gone by Rainbow.

All four areas of study will be assessed in the listening exam at the end of Year 11. One will also be selected by the examination board to use as a brief for your second composition.

How will I learn?

You will perform, compose and listen to music. There is some freedom to choose your own material to play and compose. There are a wide range of topics you will need to learn about in order to build an appreciation for music.

How will I be assessed?

Performing: This is 30% of the course. You will need to perform for between 4-6 minutes. Part of this 4-6 minute time limit must be spent performing as part of a group. The pieces you
perform will be broadly equivalent to a grade 3 of graded music exams. You will achieve a higher grade if you are above grade 3. This work is teacher assessed.

**Composing:** Composing accounts for 30% of the course. You will compose two pieces - one will be in response to a brief given by the exam board; the second composition is free choice and you will set your own brief. This work is teacher assessed.

**Listening:** This will be assessed at the end of Year 11 and externally marked. It accounts for 40% of the course and takes the form of a written exam lasting 1 hour 15 minutes. You will answer questions on the four areas of study.

**Will there be any independent study?**

Independent study, including daily practice on your chosen instrument, is an integral part of the course. Fortnightly homework tasks are also set in relation to the listening paper.

**What do I need for music?**

If you can already play an instrument and/or sing fluently, rhythmically and with confidence, you should be able to do well on this course. You have the opportunity to study music written for your chosen instrument and to compose your own music for it. Music theory tasks will be set as summer holiday homework to prepare before starting the course where necessary. Attending extracurricular classes will also be helpful.

**Where can this course take me?**

It could lead onto taking A level music or BTEC performing arts. The performing part of the course is a particularly useful preparation for the performing arts course. This in turn could lead onto studying music at college or a career in music or music technology.

**Where can I find more information?**

Mrs O’Rourke can provide more information or go onto the Eduqas website using this link - [http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music/gcse/](http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music/gcse/)

“If the music be the food of love, play on.”

William Shakespeare
PSYCHOLOGY

AQA GCSE Psychology

What will I study?

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour. It is concerned with trying to understand and explain how people feel, think and act. In order to do this, it considers research conducted by psychologists on people and animals. The course will enable you to have a better understanding of how people think and behave in the way they do.

The course is divided into two sections:

Cognition and behaviour:

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research methods

Social context and behaviour

- Social influence
- Language, thought and communication
- Brain and neuropsychology
- Psychological problems

How will I learn?

Psychology is a demanding course which introduces you to ideas and concepts which you have not previously studied. You will learn through a range of learning experiences from individual research, class discussion, group work, practical activities, use of ICT, presentations, videos and more formal written assignments.

How will I be assessed?

There will be no coursework and the assessment is two 1 hour 45 minute exams at the end of Year 11. You will complete two papers:

Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour

Paper 2: Social context and behaviour

Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes long, each worth 50% of the GCSE grade. You will be examined
in your ability to recall, apply and interpret the information studied.

Both exams have a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extending writing questions.

Will there be any independent study?

There will be regular independent study to complete as part of the course.

Where can this course take me?

Psychology as a subject at GCSE can lead to a number of vocations. If taken at A level and degree there are more options including: clinical psychologist, counselling psychologist, educational psychologist, forensic psychologist, health psychologist, neuropsychologist, occupational psychologist, sport and exercise psychologist, teachers and researchers in psychology.

Where can I find out more information?

Mr Russell, Miss Rashid or Miss Cavilla can tell you more.

http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182/specification-at-a-glance

“The mind thinks thoughts that we cannot plan.”

Anon
SPORTS STUDIES

OCR GCSE Physical Education (J587)

What will I study?

The course will equip you with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain your performance in physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being. This will require you to:

- Develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance
- Understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport
- Perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- Develop your ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport
- Understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being
- Understand key socio-cultural influences which can affect people’s involvement in physical activity and sport

How will I learn?

Over the two-week timetable you will have three 1 hour theory lessons and two 1 hour practical based lessons. This will be in addition to your core PE lessons. You will also be assessed against GCSE criteria in your core PE lessons and extra-curricular activities where applicable.

How will I be assessed?

The course is divided into three units.

Unit 1: Anatomy and physiology and fitness training
You will complete a 1 hour written exam which contains multiple-choice, short- and longer-answer questions. This is worth 30% of the total GCSE.

Unit 2: Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology
You will complete a 1 hour written exam which contains multiple-choice, short- and longer-answer questions. This is worth 30% of the total GCSE.

Unit 3: Practical performance and evaluating and analysing performance
You will be required to enter 3 practical activities (one individual activity, one team activity and one further one from either category). In addition to three practical performances, you are required to demonstrate your ability to analyse and evaluate their own performance in order to:
• analyse aspects of personal performance in a practical activity
• evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the performance
• produce an action plan which aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of the performance

Unit 3 is worth 40% of the course.

Is there any controlled assessment?

Unit 3 is a non-exam assessment (NEA) and, as such, assessment for this unit will take place in our lesson time and will be externally moderated by an external OCR examiner.

Will there be any independent study?

You will be given homework to complement your learning. There is also the expectation that you will support your practical performances through attending clubs and practices for those activities.

What do I need for sports studies?

You should have an interest in PE and sport. You should enjoy being active and appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy. You should play and participate in at least one sport at club level or above and will be a regular attender to the clubs and practices the school offers.

Where can this course take me?

GCSE PE is an excellent choice for anyone who wishes to further their understanding and skill level in sport. It is important to note that this does provide an excellent foundation to go on to study A level sports studies (which is also offered at Cromwell) and towards many careers such as physical education teaching, coaching, leisure/tourism administration, and physiotherapy.

Where can I get more information?

Talk to Mr Suckling or Mr Varey, or look on the website for more detail.


“Achievement through the symbiosis of mind and body.”

Anon