



# Core curriculum

**All students must study these subjects.**

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# GCSE ENGLISH Language and Literature

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## ***Our aim***

To foster enjoyment of literature, both fiction and non-fiction, while developing skills in analysing texts and producing your own writing.

## ***The Course***

- Begins in June of Y9
- All students will sit both English Language and English Literature as two separate GCSE qualifications
- Assesses the following:
  - **Writing skills** (accuracy, writing for purpose and audience, vocabulary range, sentence style)
  - **Reading skills** (analysis of non-fiction and literary texts, such as Shakespeare, poetry from an exam board anthology, prose and drama, both modern and pre-1914)
  - **Spoken language skills** (presentation skills)

## ***How are groups devised?***

A student is placed in a group based on achievement in Year 9 (including a full formal exam in May) and their teacher's professional opinion. We re-group for GCSE at June half-term in Year 9. As a result we are likely to have four Grade 2-9 mixed ability groups and one Grade 1-3 group in 10LP. This approach

has proven successful in raising achievement at the 4-5 level and not diminishing it at 6-9 level.

You should be aware that groups 1-4 on the timetable are equal and only numbered for timetabling purposes; also that Grades 4+ are still available in Group 5.

## ***What is the Examination Board and how does it work?***

- AQA is the examination board
- Students can achieve grades 1-9
- In final examinations students are entered together, there are no longer separate tiers

## ***What do I need to do to be successful at English?***

- Be prepared to participate
- Develop my communication skills in speaking, reading and writing
- Meet interim and final deadlines for coursework and exam practice homework
- Accept advice from teachers about the areas I need to improve on and then act on this advice

### **The final grades are based on the following:**

**English Language** 100% two exam papers

**English Literature** 100% two exam papers

**Spoken Language certification** (recorded separately from the English Language grade—marked Pass, Merit, Distinction)

- Researched presentation

# GCSE MATHEMATICS

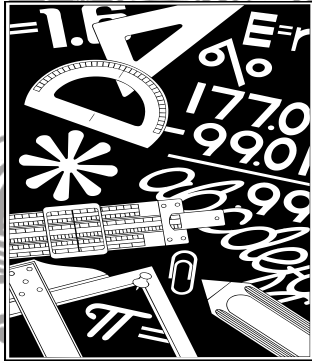
All pupils follow a GCSE course in Maths during Years 10 and 11. The specification is **EDEXCEL Maths (1MA1)**

## **Levels of Entry**

You will follow one of two tiers of entry, chosen to suit your ability and potential. This is based on your assessments during Key Stage 3 and your teacher's recommendations. The tier of entry may change based on performance in progress tests.

**The Higher tier covers grades 4 to 9** and may be suitable for you if you are working at around Grade 3 or better in Year 9.

**The Foundation tier covers grades 1 to 5** and is suitable for you if you are working below Grade 3 in Year 9.



You will need to be able to:

- recall and use your **knowledge** and apply standard **techniques**
- **make conclusions** based on mathematical information and **communicate mathematically**
- **solve problems** in a range of **contexts** by **analysing** problems to select the correct mathematical technique to use and evaluate the techniques used

## **Number:**

These topics build on work on the number system and calculation work studied at Key Stage 3 **with an emphasis on how you use calculations to answer problems.**

## **Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change:**

These topics build on fraction, decimal, percentage and ratio work studied in Key Stage 3 **with an emphasis on making links between different ways of representing numbers**

## **Statistics and Probability:**

These topics build on the averages, data and probability work that you have been studying at Key Stage 3 **with an emphasis on interpreting as well as describing and representing data**

## **Algebra:**

These topics build on your ability to form and solve equations and manipulate algebraic expressions that you have covered at Key Stage 3 **with an emphasis on using accurate ways to write algebra and make yourself understood**

## **Shape and Measures:**

The angle skills, area, perimeter and volume work are extended from those covered at Key Stage 3 **with an emphasis on applying angle and shape facts to solve problems**

## **Necessary Equipment:**

- You are required to own a **calculator**. It is important that you are familiar with the functions on your calculator, so we ask that you purchase calculators at the beginning of the course. These can be bought via ParentPay.
- As well as calculators, all students are expected to bring a pen, pencil and ruler to every lesson.
- Other mathematical equipment is provided by the department, but if you have your own, you will not have to share.

## **Assessment**

**There is no coursework in GCSE Mathematics.** You will take a number of 'progress tests' throughout Year 10 and Year 11 to make sure you are keeping up with the work and following the course for the correct tier of entry.

## **Examinations**

All students sit three examinations at the end of Year 11, each of one and a half hours in duration. One is a non-calculator exam, the other two are calculator.

Students in the top-set will also take the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths alongside their GCSE.

Some students may take the Entry Level Certificate as well as, or instead of, GCSE Maths.

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# PE and GAMES

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A wide variety of experiences are provided for Year 10 students. You have two lessons of Physical Education per week in Year 10.

Boys and girls follow a common curriculum.

## SEPTEMBER to APRIL

### Lesson 1 (Terms 1 & 2)

Students follow modules in:

- \* Badminton
- \* Table Tennis
- \* Rugby/Netball
- \* Hockey

### Lesson 2 (Terms 1 & 2)

Students follow modules in:

- \* Basketball
- \* Volleyball
- \* Fitness
- \* Football
- \* Trampolining

## APRIL to JULY

### Lesson 1

Students follow modules in:

- \* Cricket
- \* Softball
- \* Tennis

### Lesson 2

Students follow modules in:

- \* Rounders
- \* Athletics
- \* Tennis

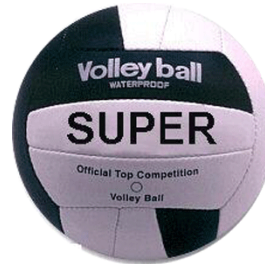
In Y11 you have one lesson per week

of Physical Education in your core programme.

All pupils will take part in a wide variety of sports in 5 week blocks.

These activities include: Rugby, Football, Trampolining, Hockey, Basketball and Volleyball.

The focus in Y11 is to hone skills and develop ability through games situations.



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# PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH & ECONOMIC EDUCATION

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**PSHE** is a course taken by all Year 10 and Year 11 students. Studies show that employers prefer to employ people with strong personal skills.

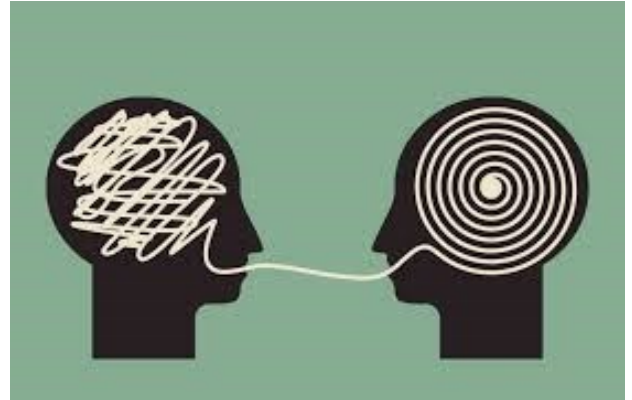
Academic qualifications alone are not enough. PSHE enables students to develop and demonstrate these skills. Successful students will gain PSHE certification. This will evidence their personal skills, for use with future employers & education providers.

## PERSONAL SKILLS

- Listening skills
- Body language
- Contribution to discussions
- Teamwork & cooperation
- Use of reasoned argument
- Interaction with visitors
- Leadership skills
- Confidence

## KS4 PSHE TOPICS

Citizenship & current affairs.  
Emotional wellbeing  
Disability  
Sex and Relationships Education (SRE),  
Finance & managing money  
Parenting  
Bereavement & loss



## THEMES THROUGHOUT

- Critical thinking - hearing other perspectives, challenging beliefs, deeper thinking, debating
- Personal responsibility & empowerment
- Having purpose, finding your passion, making a contribution to society
- Gratitude, optimism/hope/change
- Equality, diversity & commonality
- Compassion & empathy
- Making mistakes, taking risks, perfectionism

## ASSESSMENT

Teacher observation  
Reflection (oral and written)  
Student self-assessment  
Visitor feedback

# GCSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

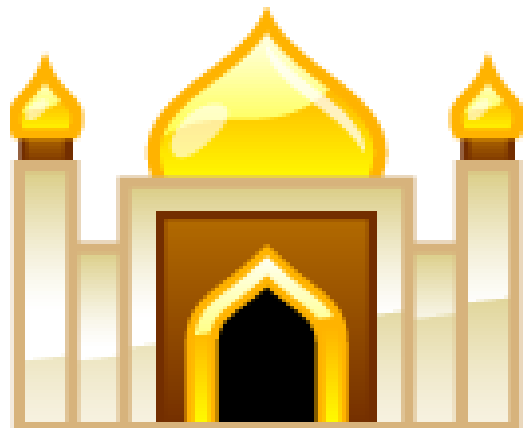
We follow a full GCSE course in RE with the exam board AQA (Specification A) between Y9 –Y11. The modules aim to build on the knowledge of Christianity and Islam gained in Key Stage 3.

The course encourages you to apply this knowledge to contemporary issues in the modern world.

## PAPER 1: BELIEFS/TEACHINGS and PRACTICES OF CHRISTIANITY + ISLAM

## PAPER 2 : FOUR THEMES FROM A CHRISTIAN + MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE

- Relationships and Families
  - Religion and Life
  - Human Rights and Social Justice
  - Crime and Punishment
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- There is one lesson per week.
  - In-course assessment is by specimen exam questions and Y10 and Y11 examinations.
  - Students will sit two x 1hr 45min exams at the end of Y11.
  - No coursework



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# GCSE SCIENCE

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There are two routes for GCSE Science.

Route 1: **Triple award science** where you will study **Biology, Chemistry and Physics in three separate GCSEs (referred to as triple)** or

Route 2: **Combined award science** where you will study **Biology, Chemistry and Physics leading to two GCSEs (referred to as combined)**.

Many students will have the opportunity to access Triple award, however for other students the Combined science award is more appropriate. We will test students at the end of y9 to inform that decision and will communicate to parents which course is most appropriate for individual students in a timely manner.

The main difference between the 2 routes is the breadth and depth of content covered, as combined leads to two GCSEs and triple to three GCSEs.

## **Route 1: Triple award**

The course is linear.

You will take one of these GCSE's at the end of Y10 and the other two at the end of Y11.

### **Triple assessments:**

There are two tiers of entry for the examinations.

There are two papers per science (two biology, two chemistry and two physics).

Each paper will be 1 hour 45 minutes long and will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

## **Route 2: Combined award**

The course is linear

All of your exams will be in y11 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics leading to two combined GCSE's.

### **Combined assessments:**

There are two tiers of entry for the examinations.

There are two papers per science (two biology, two chemistry and two physics).

Each paper will be 1 hour 15 minutes long and will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

### **Common to both routes:**

Practical work is a central part of all the courses, with students having to complete a minimum of **24 required practicals**. This work will be examined in each of the sciences and will count for at least 15% of the overall marks for the qualification.

Examination assessment is split into 2 tiers of entry – Foundation and Higher.

The Foundation tier targets grades 1–5 and the Higher tier targets grades 4–9. The decision about which is the best tier of entry for you will be made by teachers using assessment data gathered throughout.

