DUCHY COLLEGE
HARROGATE

GCSE CURRICULUM INFORMATION BOOKLET

Since 1893

GCSE CURRICULUM BOOKLET CONTENTS

WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL AT DUCHY COLLEGE THE GCSE YEARS

Middle School at Duchy College is both an exciting and pivotal time: pupils begin to make meaningful choices that shape their academic journey and personal interests, setting the foundation for their future paths.

Academic success is important and we encourage all our pupils to aim high. However, we believe the learning process is just as valuable as the final results. Preparing a pupil for Sixth Form requires more than just good grades — it requires strong independent learning habits and, crucially, a genuine love of learning. Our goal is for our pupils to enjoy their studies, feel engaged and to flourish.

In today's rapidly evolving world, qualities like teamwork, communication, and interpersonal skills are just as important as academic achievement. At Duchy College, both our curriculum and our broad extra-curricular offering are designed to develop these vital attributes.

Why GCSE/IGCSE Results Matter

GCSE/IGCSE results are often the only formal academic evidence available to universities and other Higher Education institutions when students apply in Upper 6. Employers and admissions tutors view these results as a key indicator of a pupil's ability, so they are taken seriously.

Subject Options

This booklet outlines the subjects currently on offer. Pupils should select subjects they enjoy and in which they are most likely to succeed and staff are always available to support and guide pupils through this decision-making process. Please note any subject may be withdrawn if there are not enough pupils to make it viable; this decision will be made on a subject-by-subject basis.

Curriculum Structure

At Duchy College, the GCSE curriculum is broad and balanced. Our pupils study three core GCSE subjects: English, Mathematics and Science. English usually includes English Language and English Literature, and Science comprises Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They also choose three additional subjects plus one reserve option. Games and PSHE are compulsory non-examined subjects that all pupils take part in during the two years.

Making Your Subject Choices

Choosing your GCSE/IGCSE subjects can feel daunting, but by asking the right questions, you can make confident and informed decisions:

1. What subjects do I enjoy?

You're more likely to succeed in subjects you find engaging and stimulating. Keep in mind, however, that GCSE/IGCSE courses often differ significantly from what you've studied in earlier years. Take the time to read about the course content and structure.

2. Do I prefer coursework or exams?

Different subjects include varying amounts of coursework or controlled assessment. While coursework may seem less stressful than exams, it requires good time management and consistent effort. If several of your subjects involve coursework, be prepared for deadlines that may overlap.

3. Are any subjects essential for a future career?

In most cases, no. Most pupils don't have firm career plans at this stage, and most GCSE/IGCSE subject choices will keep your future options open. If you do have questions about university or career requirements, speak with Mr Dwyer or the Head of Sixth Form.

4. Should I try to study extra subjects?

Only if it won't compromise your performance overall. It is better to excel in a manageable number of subjects than to stretch yourself too thinly. Most pupils take 8 or 9 GCSE/IGCSEs, which leaves time for enrichment activities that are equally important to your development and wellbeing.

Next Steps

You will submit your subject choices using an electronic form that will be circulated in January. The form will ask you to list four subject choices in order of preference. We will use this information to create option blocks that accommodate as many pupils' preferences as possible.

Can I change my mind later?

Once the option blocks are created, certain subjects will be scheduled at the same time. This means you won't be able to switch between two subjects that clash. There is however, usually flexibility to choose another subject that fits within the blocks.

Support and Guidance

Pupils are not expected to make these decisions alone: support is available from form tutors and subject teachers. This booklet provides detailed information about each subject. For further advice, pupils can also speak to: Mr Dwyer (Deputy Head Academic), Mrs Irvine (Head of Middle School), Mrs Griffin (Head of Lower School) or Mr Massey (Senior Master).

We encourage all pupils to seek guidance and make informed, thoughtful choices that suit their strengths and interests.

Life Beyond the Classroom

Throughout the GCSE years, our pupils are encouraged to stay involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These experiences contribute to a well-rounded education, promote good mental health, and help manage any exam-related stress.

THE CORE CURRICULUM

Before you consider your option subjects, you should spend some time making sure you understand how the compulsory subjects' work. All pupils will study:

- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Biology**
- **Chemistry**
- **Physics**

You will also follow non-examination courses in:

- **Physical Education (Games)**
- **PSHE**

However, there is some flexibility within the 'Core' curriculum:

- In English, most pupils will work towards two GCSE/IGCSEs, English Language (GCSE) and English Literature (GCSE). However, some pupils may be advised to take only one qualification, English Language. In some cases, where a non-native speaker of English has weaker language skills, we may recommend that they take the English as a Second Language GCSE course instead.
- The top division in Mathematics will also have the opportunity to take Level 2 Further Mathematics at the end of Year 11.
- Pupils will be entered for either Triple Award Science or Dual Award Science. In Triple Award Science, pupils study for a separate IGCSE in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, giving a total of three IGCSEs. In Dual Award Science, pupils study a smaller syllabus of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and are awarded a combined grade across the three sciences for two IGCSEs. The same amount of lesson time is allocated to both courses. Pupils studying for Triple award will have a higher workload outside of lessons. The choice of which course is appropriate for pupils will be made after consultation between teachers and pupils.
- Where possible, we recommend that all pupils study a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish) and a Humanity (Geography, History or Religious Studies).

GCSE/IGCSE Options

Once you are clear about the core curriculum, you can start to think about possible choices. For GCSE courses beginning in September 2026, the option subjects are:

- Art and Design
- Art and Design (Textiles)
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Economics
- French
- Geography
- History
- Food and Nutrition
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Triple Award Science

How do I choose and what restrictions are there?

You should choose 3 or 4 subjects from the list above. As we are a smaller school, we aim to tailor the timetable each year to the needs of our pupils, so there are no set blocks published in advance. This allows for a much more flexible system. There are no specific restrictions, but remember that for most people it is a good idea to keep a broad curriculum.

You will be asked to fill in your choices in preference order. This is so we can ensure your most important choices fit the timetable first. We aim to give all pupils all of their choices, but, inevitably, it is possible that a small number of combinations may not be possible. By listing your choices in order, you are helping us to make sure the highest priorities are catered for first.

ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

EXAM BOARD – OCR J170

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

This course offers an exploration of still life, textures and surface through research and first-hand experience of the work of various artists. Personal experimentation and creativity are encouraged, using a wide range of materials and building upon previous skills. Visits to galleries, exhibitions and interesting selected locations will aid your personal understanding and development.

This is a theme-based course with many practical demonstrations and analysis of works of art through masterclass workshops by visiting artists. As the course develops, the emphasis is on you to find your own individual style which is displayed clearly in your sketchbooks and in final pieces.

Art and Design

Candidates' submissions should include practical and critical/contextual work in at least two of the following: Fine Art, Textiles, Ceramics, Printwork or Photography.

Why study Art and Design?

It develops your personal imagination and creativity and offers a chance to sustain and develop your ideas. It can lead on to foundation courses at Art colleges and then on to degree courses. The worlds of Fashion, Interior Design, Architecture, Physiotherapy, Jewellery Design, Occupational Therapy and Theatre all require independent creativity.

What should you bring to the course?

- A willingness to work regularly and systematically in your sketchbook which will help to develop and refine your ideas;
- A willingness to use the art facilities in your free time to build up your portfolio;
- An interest in the work of artists and an enthusiasm for visiting galleries and exhibitions in your free time;
- An enjoyment of experimenting with a variety of materials.

Assessment

Component 1: Portfolio consisting of sketchbook and final pieces	**60%**
Component 2: Externally set assignment; includes a preparatory period to produce a sketchbook followed by 10 hours of supervised time	**40%**

ART AND DESIGN – TEXTILE DESIGN

EXAM BOARD – OCR J174

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

This course enables pupils to develop and demonstrate their creativity in making textiles products and it rewards flair and imagination.

The course is designed to encourage pupils to develop knowledge, skills and understanding along with creativity and imagination. It provides an opportunity to experiment with ideas, processes, media, materials and techniques and for pupils to take risks with their work whilst developing their own style.

The specification is made up of two components: a portfolio and an externally set task. The portfolio is made up of practical work which explores the skills, knowledge and understanding in the pupil's chosen practical area of study. All components are internally marked and externally moderated. The externally set task offers pupils the opportunity to respond to a choice of themes. Pupils are encouraged to select, organise and present work that represents the best of their achievement in response to the assessment objectives.

Areas of study

Textile Design is the creation of designs and products for woven, knitted, stitched or printed fabrics and involves an understanding of fibres, yarns and fabrics. Pupils will explore and develop skills, knowledge and understanding through the application of techniques and processes including weaving, surface printing, pattern making, pattern cutting, embroidery, knitting, batik, appliqué and collage.

Why study Textiles?

To build up a variety of textiles skills; recent research has found that working on 3D projects develops cognitive skills which help with a variety of other subjects. You would enjoy studying it if you are interested in fashion, fabrics and developing creative skills.

What should you bring to the course?

- Enthusiasm and motivation;
- Keenness to develop your own ideas and work through problem-solving tasks;
- An ability to work independently on a variety of techniques;
- A willingness to record ideas through sketches and annotation.

Assessment

Portfolio: Internally assessed and externally moderated	60%
Externally set task: Internally assessed and externally moderated	40%

COMPUTER SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD – CAIE 0984

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

- **Component 1: Computer systems**

  Introduces pupils to the Central Processing Unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

- **Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming**

  Application and development of skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programmes, computational logic, translators and data representation.

Why study Computer Science?

Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving. It encourages pupils to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Pupils also analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programmes.

The course encourages pupils to: think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically; understand the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate with one another and with other systems; understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.

What should you bring to the course?

- An enthusiastic interest in computing and technology and the advances that are being made every day.
- Mathematical and problem solving skills would be beneficial.

Assessment

Written Examination 01	50%
Written Examination 02	50%

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

We are excited to announce the return of Design Technology to our GCSE curriculum for September 2026. We have completed the refurbishment of the Design Technology Department and are now planning the details of the curriculum, including selection of the most appropriate GCSE syllabus. We look forward to sharing further details with you shortly, but please feel free to visit the Design Technology Department in the meantime to ask any questions.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

EXAM BOARD – AQA GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY 8552

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

The GCSE Design and Technology course teaches pupils how to explore, create and evaluate products and systems. Pupils learn through practical activities which build their knowledge, understanding and skills in three main areas.

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

Core technical principles cover how materials, such as wood, polymers, metals, card and textiles, function and how they are used in industrial applications. For specialist technical principles, pupils study one material or system in more depth. Pupils will develop their design and making skills through practical projects in each material area.

Why study Design Technology?

GCSE Design and Technology prepares pupils to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Pupils will gain awareness, and learn, from wider influences on Design and Technology; this includes historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Pupils have the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making, as well as applying technical and practical expertise.

GCSE Design and Technology allows pupils to study core technical, designing and making principles. This includes a broad range of design processes, materials, techniques and equipment. Materials include wood, polymers, metal, card, paper and textiles.

Design and Technology prepares pupils for future careers in industries such as engineering, product design and digital manufacturing. The course helps pupils develop transferable skills such as teamwork, communication and project management.

What should you bring to the course?

Pupils should bring a willingness to develop critical thinking skills and creative problem solving through real world challenges. They will need to show creativity and innovation through design-and-make projects.

Pupils should be prepared to develop their technological literacy for a rapidly evolving world. They should be interested in the environmental impact of their designs and how to promote sustainability. Pupils need to demonstrate mathematical and scientific knowledge, as well as understanding, in relation to design and technology. At least 15% of the exam will assess maths and 10% will assess science.

You can find more information about Design and Technology qualifications at www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology

Assessment

Written Examination	**50%**
Coursework Portfolio	**50%**

DRAMA

EXAM BOARD – AQA 8261

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

The course is structured into three components.

Component 1: Understanding Drama

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre;
- Study of one set play from a choice of six;
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.

Component 2: Devising Drama

- Process of creating devised drama;
- Performance of one piece of devised drama (pupils may contribute as performer or designer);
- Analysis and evaluation of own work.

Component 3: Texts in Practice

- Performance of two extracts from one play;
- Pupils may contribute as performer or designer;
- Free choice of play but it must contrast with the play chosen for component 1.

Why study Drama?

It is an exciting and stimulating course that gives you the chance to develop a wide variety of valuable skills. It also helps to broaden your cultural and critical appreciation through visits to see a diverse range of theatre productions. It is a subject that is welcomed by employers and universities alike, as it helps pupils to become confident communicators and effective team players.

What should you bring to the course?

- Lots of enthusiasm and a passion for performing;
- The desire to explore creative ideas through Drama;
- A willingness to work cooperatively with others.

Assessment

Understanding Drama: Written examination	**40%**
Devising Drama: Moderation process	**40%**
Texts in Practice: Practical performance examination	**20%**

ECONOMICS

EXAM BOARD – OCR J205

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

The course content is split into two units, each assessed through a written paper:

- Introduction to Economics covers the role of markets and money.
- National and International Economics covers the economic objectives and policies of a government. It also examines globalisation, including the differences between developed and developing economies.

Why study Economics?

Economics enables us to investigate social, moral and economic problems in both the national and global context. By studying a range of analytical tools and models, we have the opportunity to offer realistic solutions through government intervention. Many economists are hired by international, national and local governments and companies. They serve in a wide variety of positions involving analysis and policy making.

What should you bring to the course?

An enthusiastic interest in topical world issues is essential to enjoy Economics fully. A sound level of mathematical and written skills would be beneficial as the course develops.

Assessment

Written Examination	**100%**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

EXAM BOARD – CAMBRIDGE IGCSE 0990

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

This course emphasises effective communication, language analysis, and writing skills. It covers various text types, including fiction and non-fiction, and fosters language proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking. Students develop critical thinking and language awareness, preparing them for effective communication in a global context.

› **Paper 1: Written examination (50%) 2 hours**

Candidates answer three compulsory questions on three texts which may be on a similar topic.

Question 1: Comprehension and summary task

Question 2: Short-answer questions and language task

Question 3: Extended response to reading

› **Component 3: Coursework Portfolio (50%)**

Candidates submit a portfolio of three extended writing assignments that are internally assessed and externally moderated.

Assignment 1: Writing to discuss, argue and/or persuade in response to a text or texts

Assignment 2: Writing to describe

Assignment 3: Writing to narrate

› **Component 4: Speaking and Listening Test**

Candidates prepare an individual talk and conversation, approximately 10–12 minutes in total. This component is separately endorsed and is internally assessed and externally moderated. Marks for Component 4 do not contribute to a candidate's overall grade.

Why study English?

Studying English language is essential for effective communication in today's globalized world. It provides a foundation for academic success, professional opportunities, and cultural exchange. Understanding English's nuances, grammar, and vocabulary enables clear and persuasive expression.

What should you bring to the course?

Enthusiasm, a desire to learn, and an open-minded approach. Actively engage in class discussions, practise listening and speaking and seek feedback to improve. Embrace language challenges as opportunities for growth. Having a positive attitude, determination, and consistent effort will help you make the most of this course.

Assessment

Written Examination	**50%**
Coursework Portfolio	**50%**

ENGLISH LITERATURE

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL IGCSE

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

This course explores a range of texts, focusing on literary analysis, contextual understanding, and critical thinking. Students study classic and contemporary works, engage in close reading, and develop writing skills. You will study poetry, drama and prose texts that foster a deep appreciation for literature's diversity and significance.

› **Component 1: Poetry and Modern Prose – written examination, 2 hours (60%)**

The focus of this component is:

Section A – Unseen poetry

Section B – Poetry Anthology

Section C – Modern prose.

Students will study two set texts for this component: this includes all poems from Part 3 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology and one of the modern prose set texts.

› **Paper 3: Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts – Coursework Portfolio (40%)**

Candidates submit a portfolio of two assignments that are internally assessed and externally moderated.

The focus of this component is:

Assignment A – Modern drama

Assignment B – Literary heritage texts.

Students will study two set texts for this component: one of the modern drama set texts and one of the literary heritage set texts.

Why study English Literature?

Studying English Literature enhances critical thinking, communication skills, and cultural literacy. It offers insights into the human experience, fosters empathy, and inspires creativity. Moreover, it has practical applications in education and the workplace, and it is fundamental for academic success. English Literature enriches lives, broadens perspectives, and contributes to personal and intellectual growth.

What should you bring to the course?

Curiosity, an open mind, and a willingness to engage with diverse texts. Be prepared to engage in thoughtful discussions, analyse texts critically, and write effectively. Curiosity, patience, and an eagerness to learn are invaluable tools for success in this IGCSE.

Assessment

Written Examination	**60%**
Coursework Portfolio	**40%**

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

EXAM BOARD – OCR J309

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

It aims to equip learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply principles of Food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Why study Food Preparation and Nutrition?

Food and diet are essential components of life. You should consider studying Food Preparation and Nutrition if you enjoy the variety of a more practically based subject. Food relates to everyday life and is relevant to everyone. Cooking and preparing food is a life skill.

You will:

- Develop your interest in the creative aspect and enjoyment of food;
- Develop confidence in using the high skills necessary in food preparation and cooking;
- Make connections between theory and practice so that you are able to apply your understanding of food and nutrition and food science to practical cooking;
- Have an informed approach that will help you to evaluate choices and decisions about your own diet and health.

What should you bring to the course?

- Enthusiasm;
- An interest in the food you eat;
- Self-motivation and the ability to meet deadlines;
- Willingness to explore a hands-on, practical subject backed up by good subject knowledge.

Assessment

Science Investigation Task (NEA 1)	**15%**
Food Preparation Task Including 3-hour Practical (NEA 2)	**35%**
Written Examination	**50%**

GEOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD – AQA 8035

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

Geography allows pupils to gain an understanding of the physical processes and factors that produce diverse and dynamic landscapes that change over time, as well as developing an awareness of the ways in which people interact with their surroundings. We will become aware of the decisions that affect the human and physical landscapes. The course gives us the opportunity to explore Geography at different spatial levels (local, regional, national, international and global).

Fieldwork is completed over a 3-day period in a variety of locations around the Lake District, and encourages questioning, investigation and critical thinking about human, physical and environmental issues. Pupils will develop skills of problem solving, decision making, synthesising ideas and communicating findings, by working individually and as part of a team. Knowledge of the investigation and skills developed will be tested by an examination.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment;

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment;

Paper 3: Geographical applications.

Why study Geography?

Geography is recognised as a dynamic discipline in continuous change and it allows you to understand the way the world is developing and to stimulate an interest in different places. It will equip you with a wide range of skills and techniques that can be used in other disciplines.

What should you bring to the course?

- An interest in the way the world works and a desire to find out what will happen in the future;
- Enthusiasm and a willingness to think outside the box;
- An ability to work in a group and also to be able to work independently;
- An ever enquiring mind.

Assessment

Written Examination	**100%**

HISTORY

EXAM BOARD – AQA GCSE SPECIFICATION B (LINEAR) 9145

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

AQA GCSE History is made up of four units across two examination papers:

Paper 1

1. Germany 1890-1945; Democracy and dictatorship

2. Conflict and tension; 1918-39

Paper 2

3. Health and the people: c1000 to the present day

4. Elizabethan England; c1568-1603

Why study History?

History is fascinating. It allows you to explore times and places both very different from our own and others that can be surprisingly similar. Studying the past gives you insights into people, societies and attitudes of today.

You will develop your analytical skills and learn how to use information critically and effectively - vital skills in today's world. You will hone your ability to debate ideas and to express clear, reasoned, points of view.

The GCSE builds on the work done at Key Stage 3. History at GCSE is essential preparation for the further study of History and very useful for the degree level study of Politics, Law, Archaeology, Anthropology and Journalism to name but a few.

What should you bring to the course?

- A hunger to find out more about the past and the ways it has shaped the present;
- An enjoyment of discussion and problem solving;
- A desire to learn how to think independently and articulate your own arguments convincingly.

Assessment

Written Examination	**100%**

MATHEMATICS

EXAM BOARD – AQA 8300

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

HIGHER: 9 TO 4. FOUNDATION: 5 TO 1.

Course Content

The subject content is organised into six broad topic areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a very versatile subject - techniques learnt here will be utilised in many different and sometimes surprising ways. Open-ended questions which involve using and applying Mathematics particularly help to develop the invaluable skills of thinking logically, precisely and creatively.

The Higher Tier of entry stimulates the more able and provides a good foundation on which to build for those wishing to study or use Mathematics in the Sixth Form.

What should you bring to the course?

A willingness both to be open minded about Mathematics and to explore its diversity and beauty.

Assessment

Written Examination	**100%**

You will be assessed in the summer of Year 11.

You will take three compulsory papers (all at the same tier), as follows:

Paper 1	**Non-calculator**	**1 hour 30 minutes**	**80 marks**
Paper 2	**Calculator**	**1 hour 30 minutes**	**80 marks**
Paper 3	**Calculator**	**1 hour 30 minutes**	**80 marks**

Each paper contributes equally to your final grade, and content from any part of the specification may be assessed in each one.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

EXAM BOARD – CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

HIGHER: 9 TO 4.

Course Content

The specification develops the knowledge gained from GCSE Mathematics as well as introducing some new topics. It comprises of the following areas of subject content:

- Number
- Algebra
- Co-ordinate Geometry
- Calculus
- Matrix Transformations
- Geometry

Why study Further Mathematics?

This qualification provides for high achieving pupils by assessing their higher order mathematical skills, particularly in algebraic reasoning, in greater depth. This prepares them to fully maximise their potential in further studies. The qualification places an emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem solving skills. It also gives an introduction to calculus and matrices and develops further skills in trigonometry, functions and graphs.

What should you bring to the course?

- An enquiring and logical mind;
- A willingness to attempt challenging questions.

Assessment

Written Examination	**100%**

You will be assessed in the summer of Year 11.

You will take two compulsory papers, as follows:

Paper 1	**Non-calculator**	**1 hour 45 minutes**	**80 marks**
Paper 2	**Calculator**	**1 hour 45 minutes**	**80 marks**

Each paper contributes to your final grade, and content from any part of the specification may be assessed in each one.

PLEASE NOTE: All pupils in Mathematics Set 1 at the start of Year 11 will undertake this course. Level 2 Certificates are equivalent to a GCSE.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES FRENCH – SPANISH

EXAM BOARD – CAMBRIDGE IGCSE 7156, 7160

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

The content of the course for each language is similar, based on five topic areas all examined in the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

The specification for each topic is related to everyday life. For example 'Family and Relationships' allows the development of grammatical accuracy and vocabulary acquisition to take place in a genuine context in which pupils feel secure. 'Leisure and Tourism' widens their experience, while 'The Environment' and 'The World of Work' also offer a vehicle for debate, so improving the spoken language in an appropriate forum.

Why study Modern Foreign Languages?

The study of foreign languages teaches and encourages respect for other people: it fosters an understanding of the interrelation of language and human nature. Foreign languages expand one's view of the world, liberalise one's experiences, and make one more flexible and tolerant.

Study of a language does, of course, prepare pupils to study it for a full university degree, but many other degree courses welcome an advanced language and this may even lead to the opportunity to study abroad for part of the degree programme.

In the increasingly connected world in which we live, there has never been a better time to keep your language study alive.

What should you bring to the course?

- A readiness to involve yourself in the language and culture of another country;
- A readiness to speak the foreign language with increased confidence to meet the demands of the oral examination.

Assessment

Final Examination	**100%**

You will sit four examinations with equal weighting in speaking, listening, reading and writing.

MUSIC

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL 1MU0

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

Listening and Appraising

A listening and written paper of 1 hour 45 minutes, externally set and marked by Edexcel. Eight set works from four areas of study are covered: Instrumental Music 1700-1820; Vocal Music; Music for Stage and Screen; and Fusions. There are also unfamiliar and wider listening questions.

Coursework: Performing

Pupils produce both a solo and an ensemble performance which must be recorded in Year 11. Performance may be on any instrument or singing and in any style. The combined length of the two performances should be four minutes minimum. It is expected that pupils will have weekly one-to-one instrumental/singing lessons throughout the GCSE years.

Coursework: Composition

Pupils produce two compositions. One is to a set brief related to the areas of study (undertaken in Year 11) and the other is a free composition (undertaken at any time). The combined length of the two pieces should be three minutes minimum.

What should you bring to the course?

- A genuine love of music and an openness to many different styles;
- Ability to sing or play an instrument to a minimum standard of Grade 4;
- A good basic knowledge of note reading and music theory and a commitment to deepening and extending this knowledge throughout the GCSE years;
- Willingness to undertake regular instrumental or singing practice;
- Willingness to be involved in extra-curricular music in order to support all-round musical development and GCSE performance coursework;
- Ability to work independently on composition and meet deadlines;
- Willingness to carry out further independent listening to support preparation for the listening examination.

Assessment

Written Examination	**40%**
Coursework: Performing	**30%**
Coursework: Composition	**30%**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

EXAM BOARD – AQA 8582

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Course Content

The GCSE course is based on content that covers a range of sport related topics and is structured in such a way as to give some reward for performance-related components (practical performance and analysis of performance).

Unit 1: Fitness and Body Systems. This unit covers applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training and use of data. You will learn about how the body systems work together to allow athletes to perform at maximum levels. You will also study and experience a range of training methods to improve specific aspects of fitness.

Unit 2: Health and performance. Topics covered are health, fitness and well-being along with sport psychology, socio-cultural influences and use of data. You will learn how coaches use psychology to improve athlete performance as well as exploring healthy active lifestyles and their contribution to effective performance in sport. You will also investigate reasons different people participate in sport or physical activity and understand the effect of commercialisation on a variety of sports.

Unit 3: Practical Performance. Assessment of three physical activities to include one team sport, one individual sport and a sport of your choice which can be a team or individual sport.

Unit 4: Analysis of Performance. Analyse your own or another's performance, to identify strengths and weaknesses. You will then create an action plan to improve these weaknesses.

Why study Physical Education?

It allows for practical activity during your very intense GCSE courses and rewards those who are good at sport. It also allows you to understand the theory behind physical activity and sport whilst learning about wider issues relating to elite sport and participation. It is an excellent qualification to take if you are interested in studying sport in further depth and possibly going on to a career in a sporting environment.

What should you bring to the course?

- High performance in 3 sports;
- An interest in sport and the science behind physical activity;
- Motivation to be involved in Physical Education outside the classroom;
- Discipline to learn in the classroom, and then apply the theory in a practical setting.

Assessment

Written Examination (2 Papers)	**60%**
Practical (3 Activities)	**30%**
Analysis of Performance (Coursework)	**10%**

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

EXAM BOARD – AQA 8062

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9 TO 1.

Paper One Study of Religions	Paper Two Thematic Studies
Christianity: Beliefs & Teachings › Beliefs about the Nature of God inc. Trinity, Creation, Problem of Evil, Life After Death. › Jesus: Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, Sin & Salvation. **Christianity: Practices** › Worship, Prayer, Baptism, Holy Communion, Festivals, Pilgrimage. › Mission & Evangelism, Church Growth, the work of the Church. **Islam: Beliefs & Teachings** › Nature of Allah (Tawhid), 6 Articles & 5 Roots, Angels & Predestination. › Authority: Holy Books, Prophethood, Imamate. **Islam: Practices** › 5 Pillars & 10 Obligatory Acts, Shahadah, Salah. › Sawm, Zakah, Hajj, Jihad, Festivals & Commemorations.	**Theme B: Religion & Life** › Origins of the Universe, Science & Religion, Animal Ethics, Environmental Ethics. › Origins of Human Life, Sanctity / Quality of Life, Abortion, Euthanasia, Life After Death. **Theme D: Religion, War & Peace** › Peace, Justice, Violent Protest, Terrorism. › Reasons for War, Just War Theory, Pacifism, Holy War & Weapons of Mass Destruction. **Theme E: Religion, Crime & Punishment** › Causes of Crime, Attitudes to Criminals, is it always wrong to break the law? › Aims of Punishment, Community Service, Corporal & Capital Punishment, Forgiveness. **Theme F: Human Rights & Social Justice** › Human Rights inc. Freedom of Religion & Blasphemy, Prejudice & Discrimination. › Wealth, Inequality & Poverty, Social Justice, People Trafficking, Charity.

What study Religious Studies?

This subject teaches you so much about our world - its history, its cultures and its conflicts – and gives you the opportunity to discuss some of the biggest philosophical and ethical questions as well. The course builds strong skills in critical thinking, analysis and essay-writing, which will help you to succeed at A Level and beyond at university, and in life.

Law, Medicine, Politics, Journalism & Media, Creative Arts, Business, Marketing & Advertising, Teaching, and Personnel Management all use the skills and knowledge developed through GCSE Religious Studies.

What should you bring to the course?

There is no need to be religious to take Religious Studies; you can take the GCSE even if you have not studied the subject before. You just need an interest in the content, a questioning attitude and an open mind, a desire to discuss and a willingness to debate.

Assessment

Written Examination	**100%**

DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL IGCSE 4SD0

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING GRADES 9-9 TO 1-1.

Course Content

You will study material from all three sciences:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
› The nature and variety of living organisms	› Principles of chemistry	› Forces and motion
› Structure and functions in living organisms	› Inorganic chemistry	› Electricity
› Reproduction and inheritance	› Physical chemistry	› Waves
› Ecology and the environment	› Organic chemistry	› Energy resources and energy transfer
› Use of biological resources		› Solids, liquids and gases
		› Magnetism and electromagnetism
		› Radioactivity and particles
		› Astrophysics

Why study Double Award Science?

Double Award Science gives a rigorous grounding in Science, while taking less time to study compared to Triple Award. It gives a rounded basis for further study, by covering a range of concepts and applications. The IGCSE Dual Award course enables successful progression to A-Level courses in all Sciences, and university courses including Medicine and Engineering.

The material covered in the Double Award Science course is 2/3rd the content of each Triple Science course.

Routes in science

All pupils study Biology, Chemistry and Physics at GCSE, and have science lessons as part of the Core Curriculum. The core curriculum lessons give enough time to study for Double Award Science. The course involves studying an equal amount of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. At the end of the course, an average attainment grade is awarded based on examinations in each of the three sciences.

Pupils who wish to take their studies of Science further at the GCSE level can choose to take Triple Award Science as an option, which would give them additional science lessons in an option block. In Triple Award Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics are examined separately, and pupils achieve a separate IGCSE in each Science subject, giving them a total of three IGCSEs.

Assessment

One two Hour Paper in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Written Examination	**100%**

TRIPLE AWARD SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD – BIOLOGY EDEXCEL IGCSE 4BI1, CHEMISTRY IGCSE 4CH1, AND PHYSICS IGCSE 4PH1

LEVELS OFFERED AND GRADES AWARDED

SINGLE TIER ENTRY OFFERING A SEPARATE GRADE OF 9 TO 1 IN EACH OF BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS.

Why choose Triple Award Science?

Pupils can choose Triple Award Science because their interest and enjoyment of science inspires them to study beyond the Core Science curriculum. Those who choose Triple Award Science will be allocated additional lessons in Biology, Chemistry and Physics on their timetable, allowing coverage of the extra course content compared to Dual Award. At the end of the course, pupils will sit two examinations in each science, and be awarded a separate IGCSE for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

BIOLOGY

IGCSE 4BI1

Course Content

You will study material consisting of five units:

- The nature and variety of living organisms;
- Structure and function in living organisms;
- Reproduction and inheritance;
- Ecology and the environment;
- Uses of biological resources.

The material covered in the Separate Science Biology course will be in more depth than the Double Award Science course.

Why study Biology?

A comprehensive understanding and awareness of scientific issues will enable pupils to become part of a future generation who are better equipped to meet some of the challenges facing our planet - and possibly provide some solutions!

The biological sciences are the most diverse of subjects – from molecular biology to the biosphere.

A qualification in Biology equips you with skills: literacy, numeracy, social awareness, and an ability to make connections between natural, social, economic, political and technological fields.

Assessment

Examination	**100%**

CHEMISTRY

IGCSE 4CH1

Course Content

You will study material consisting of five units:

You will study material consisting of four units:

- Principles of Chemistry;
- Inorganic Chemistry;
- Physical Chemistry;
- Organic Chemistry.

The material covered in the Separate Science Chemistry course will be in more depth than the Double Award Science course.

Why study Chemistry?

Studying Chemistry offers opportunities for contextualised learning and development of lifelong skills, including creative thinking and problemsolving.

Chemistry opens the door for many careers because training in Chemistry is essential for many positions in industry. Chemistry is highly desirable for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, chemical engineering, food sciences, teaching, and careers in public service and management. Practical investigations enable the development of skills and ability to analyse and evaluate data critically. Pupils could use this expertise to help them decide upon the validity of research presented in the media. Chemistry touches our lives every minute of the day.

Assessment

Examination	**100%**

PHYSICS

IGCSE 4PH1

Course Content

You will study material consisting of eight units:

- Forces and motion;
- Electricity;
- Waves;
- Energy resources and energy transfer;
- Solids, liquids and gases;
- Magnetism and electromagnetism;
- Radioactivity and particles;
- Astrophysics.

The material covered in the Separate Science Physics course will be in more depth than the Double Award Science course.

Why study Physics?

Physics is the science which attempts to describe how the universe works using the language of mathematics. It is usually considered the most fundamental of sciences.

Physicists are problem solvers; versatile and capable of clear, analytical thought. The skills that you learn in Physics can be applied in a range of careers, but are particularly important for future scientists, engineers and medics.

Assessment

Examination	**100%**

Physical Education
General Course

Physical Education during Year 10 consists of two double periods each week, in which a wide choice of major games are available. Pupils may choose to participate in a different activity each term or stay with one they particularly enjoy. The activities usually include: lacrosse, netball, badminton, swimming, volleyball, tennis, athletics, rounders, clubbercise, dodgeball, football and cricket as well as using the school multi-gym.

Team practices take place at lunchtime and after school. Tennis and badminton coaching is also available for all pupils in Year 10.

PSHE Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

PSHE aims to equip pupils with the knowledge and skills they require to become healthy, happy, successful adults in the wider world. In Year 10 and Year 11, pupils have one timetabled PSHE lesson per week.

In Year 10, pupils begin by learning about managing their own wellbeing and dealing with the transition to key stage 4. Following on from this, pupils learn about sexual health and contraception, healthy relationships, drugs and alcohol, digital life and prejudice.

Year 11 pupils build on these topics and reflect on wellness, health, sex and relationships, finance, risk (drugs and alcohol), community cohesion and British values.

I AM ME.

Duchy College
Clarence Drive
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
United Kingdom
HG1 2QG

T: 01423 537045
E: admissions@duchycollege.co.uk
duchycollege.org.uk

Since 1893