

Walthamstow School For Girls



**Year 10 and Year 11
2016 to 2018**

**Curriculum and Options
Booklet
(Provisional and Subject to
Change.)**

Contents

Introductory Letter - Ms M Davies, Headteacher	-	3
Introductory Letter - Ms R Warren Year 9 Student Progress Leader	-	4
Information and Guidance - Mr D Shackson Assistant Headteacher	-	5
<u>The Core Curriculum</u>	-	6
English Language	GCSE -	7
English Literature	GCSE -	7
Mathematics	GCSE -	8
Combined Science	GCSE -	9
Personal Social Health & Citizenship Education	-	10
Physical Education	-	11
Core Religious Studies	-	12
<u>Option Subjects</u>	-	13
ICT	GCSE -	14
Computer Science	GCSE -	15
Economics	GCSE -	16
GCSE Separate Science	GCSE -	17
French	GCSE -	18
Spanish	GCSE -	18
Urdu	GCSE -	18
Latin	GCSE -	19
Drama	GCSE -	20
Music	GCSE -	21
PE	GCSE -	22
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Health & Fitness	V-Cert -	23
Art, Design and Technology	-	24
Art	GCSE -	25
Food Preparation and Nutrition	GCSE -	26
Textiles Technology	GCSE -	27
Product Design	GCSE -	28
Humanities	-	29
Geography	GCSE -	30
History	GCSE -	31
Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics	GCSE -	32
Creative Digital Media Production (Level 2)	BTEC -	33
Business (Level 2)	BTEC -	34

Contents



Walthamstow School for Girls

December 2015

Dear Year 9 student,

This booklet is designed to guide you through one of the most important education choices you have ever had to make.

Choosing your Key Stage 4 programme of study is a really exciting opportunity for you to reflect on what your curriculum strengths and interests are, as well as what career path you might wish to follow later in life. It is a chance to tailor a package of subjects and courses that you will enjoy and experience success in that will provide you with a strong base from which to launch into the next phase of your education.

However, making your option choices can also be quite a daunting and stressful time. That is why we have organised a number of events to support and guide you through the process. Over the next few weeks you should discuss your ideas with as many people as possible: your teachers, your tutor, your parents/carers and any relatives who have taken GCSEs and other Key Stage Four courses. Read this booklet very carefully, as it contains vital information about each of the courses. If you are confused about which subjects are compulsory and which are optional, or what combinations of option choices are allowed, do ask a teacher for guidance or see Mr. Shackson, Assistant Headteacher.

It is also very important that you and your parents/carers attend the Year 9 Options Evening on 14th January 2016.

I wish you every success with your decision-making.

Ms M Davies
Headteacher

Headteacher's Letter

Dear Year 9 student,

This curriculum booklet provides you with information on the courses you can study throughout Key Stage 4. As well as the compulsory subjects it also contains details on the optional courses that are available to you. You must think carefully about these choices and select courses that are right for you, not simply courses your friends are doing. Please ask your teachers and various staff in school for advice and remember that you should aim to choose a broad and balanced range of subjects so that all careers will be open to you in later life.

You will also need to do your own research at this crucial time as you will be committing to studying your option subjects for at least two years.

Some courses may be structured differently at Key Stage 4 and you will certainly be expected to study more independently with greater emphasis being placed on coursework and home learning. You will need to develop your organisational skills so that you can meet all deadlines and make a smooth transition from Key Stage 3 into your GCSE courses.

Key Stage 4 is not just about examinations, it is about the opening of a new chapter in your life. It will provide you with the opportunity to explore different responsibilities which will help develop many of your personal skills. Work experience and a variety of enrichment activities are available to you during years 10 and 11 and you should take full advantage of these opportunities. Success in these activities will be used to support your college and sixth form applications as you consider your Further Education options in Year 11.

Choose your options carefully, work hard, ask for advice and help when needed and always aim to achieve your best. If you can do this, you will enjoy Key Stage 4 and leave Walthamstow School for Girls as an independent and well educated young woman, ready to take on any challenges you may face in the future.

Good luck and best wishes.



*Ms Warren
Year 9 Student Progress Leader*

Information and Guidance

Dear Year 9 Student,

Many of the subjects you will follow in Years 10 and 11 will give you the opportunity to gain GCSEs and other qualifications.

GCSEs in most subjects will be graded using a numerical value from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. Some subjects will still retain the grades of A* to G.

Given the speed with which the GCSE changes have been made by the Department for Education, this version of the options book has been made at a time when examination boards are still seeking approval for some subject specifications. An updated version will be made available before you make your final option choices.

The subjects listed under the core curriculum are subjects that all students are required to take, with the exception of science. If you choose Triple Science as an option, the individual subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics will replace the core science as well as be one of your option subjects.

From amongst the option subjects you will be required to choose a total of four subjects. Further information on making those choices will be given at the options evening.

GCSEs in most subjects are graded with a numerical value from 9 to 1 with 9 being the highest grade. Some subjects will still retain the grades of A* to G.

As you may be aware the government considers a student to have achieved an English Baccalaureate if they get good GCSE passes in English, Mathematics, one Science, one Humanities subject (History or Geography) and one Language. The English Baccalaureate is a government measure and not a qualification. The full range of subjects should not be chosen under the mistaken view that it is an entry requirement for any Further Education institutions.

Good luck and best wishes.



Mr D Shackson
Assistant Headteacher

The Core Curriculum

The Core Subjects are the subjects that everybody in Year 10 and 11 will study.

They are:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Studies
- PHSCE
- PE

You will not have to choose these subjects as everybody studies them.

The Core Curriculum

GCSE English and English Literature

Examination Board: WJEC

Specification Codes: 4170LA (English)

4200LA (English Literature)

The WJEC course studied leads to two separate qualifications in English Language and English Literature. GCSE English Language will be assessed by: two terminal examinations (100%). GCSE English Literature will be assessed by three terminal examinations (100%).

In Year 10 students will study a play, a novel, and a range of poetry and a selection of relevant non-fiction texts. To be successful, you will learn how to develop the skills of proofreading and analysis to ensure you become an independent learner in English.

You will also be given an opportunity to complete an individual presentation with a question and answer session as your Speaking and Listening assessment. You will be awarded a separate Speaking and Listening grade at the end of the course

You will study the reading and writing techniques required for the GCSE English Language examinations and you will be given a number of opportunities to practise examination question papers. You will regularly be set homework to support your learning and work will be marked frequently by your teacher who will set you targets to help you to improve. Equally there will be lots of opportunities for you to evaluate your own learning and to understand which skills you need to develop further.

The GCSE course is firmly focused on the skills you require for lifelong learning. It also offers many opportunities to be creative with greater choice of the texts you can study. The course is organised into themed units which help you to see the links between the range of skills you will develop.

Ms A Rowan

Head of English Faculty

GCSE English and English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Specification Code: 1MA1

All students take Mathematics in Years 10 and 11. The course is a continuation of what you are doing in Year 9.

To support the study of the Edexcel syllabus, you will be using various text books including the SMP Interact books, Rayner, the Edexcel course book and the new Oxford MyMaths books

You will sit three 1½ hour exams all at the end of Year 11. Two will be calculator and one will be non-calculator. There are two levels of entry, Higher and Foundation.

You will only be the second year group to receive a number grade rather than a letter for Mathematics. The Higher level will give grades from 9 down to 3 (Grade 9 is the highest possible GCSE grade), Foundation will give grades from 5 down to 1. It is believed that a Grade 4 or 5 will be equivalent to a current C grade in Mathematics. A Grade 9 will be higher than the current A*. There is no coursework or controlled assessment in Mathematics.

Students in C1 may also be able to take the Free Standing Mathematics Qualification in Additional Mathematics during Year 11. This course will be run in conjunction with Sir George Monoux College.

Finally, I hope you will all continue to find Mathematics relevant, rewarding and enjoyable over the next two years.

Mr J Fowler

Director of Mathematics Faculty

GCSE Combined Science

Examination Board: AQA (TBC)

Specification Code: TBC

The National Curriculum requires that students follow a broad and balanced Science course up to the age of 16 years. At Walthamstow School for Girls all students will do this by following the AQA Science Suite.

The aims of the course are to:

- develop an interest and enthusiasm for science
- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its role in society
- acquire the scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to study Science beyond 16

The course is designed for students of all abilities and backgrounds. It consists of equal numbers of units of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

In Years 10 and 11, students follow the syllabus in 18% of curriculum time.

Assessment will be composed of six 1 hour 15 minute examinations at the end of Year 11. Students will also be required to carry out 18 experiments on which they will be examined.

Completing this course will give you two GCSE qualifications in Science.

These GCSEs will provide you with a good scientific grounding in scientific literacy and science at work, as well as the academic capability to go on to Post 16 science courses, including A-levels in the separate sciences.

Mr C Kerr

Head of Science Faculty

GCSE Combined Science

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (P.S.H.C.E.)

This subject is one of the most important subjects in the school curriculum, because it covers all the areas not included in the GCSE subjects that are studied at Walthamstow School For Girls.

The PSHCE programme in Years 10 and 11 follows the broad topics of personal well being, economic well being, financial capability, careers and citizenship that have been studied in Key Stage 3.

The PSHCE syllabus closely follows government guidance:-

Personal Wellbeing (including Sex and Relationship Education) which helps students to feel positive about themselves and encourages them to enjoy a healthy, safe and responsible lifestyle.

Economic Wellbeing which helps the students by equipping them with the knowledge, skills and attributes to make the most of the opportunities within learning and work.

Financial Capability which helps the students to develop as questioning and informed consumers, who can manage their finances effectively.

Careers Education element that aims to increase the understanding of the world of work, by improving awareness of qualities and skills needed in a wide range of occupations, post sixteen.

Citizenship which equips students with the knowledge, skills and an understanding of democratic process, in order to allow them to play an effective role in public life through developing their social and moral responsibility, community involvement and political literacy.

PSHCE is studied by all students in one lesson per fortnight and currently is a non-examination area of study. Additional content for PSHE will be delivered using a combination of "drop-down" sessions and Tutor time.

*Ms K H Pratt
Head of Pastoral Faculty*

Physical Education (PE)

Physical Education is one of the core subjects within the National Curriculum at Key Stage Four and therefore it is compulsory for all Year 10 and 11 students. It is the PE Department's aim to promote sport as a healthy, enjoyable and lifelong pastime for all our students.

All Year 10 students receive one hour of physical activity each week, which will include a variety of different activities throughout the year. You are given pathway options at Year 10 and can select to study one of four options:

Option 1 – Sports Leaders Level One Award. You are given the opportunity to work in small groups to deliver sports sessions to local primary school students.

Option 2 – Dance. The Jack Petchey Foundation funds a project called Step into Dance and we have a specialist dance teacher who comes into school to deliver Street Dance lessons.

Option 3 – Team Games. You will be given the opportunity to participate in sports such as basketball, netball, football and rounders.

Option 4 – Individual Activities. You will be given the opportunity to develop your skills in activities such as trampolining, short tennis, orienteering and fitness.

All Year 11 students receive two hours of physical activity every other week. You are again given options as to which three activities you wish to participate in throughout the year, some of which are delivered off site including swimming at the Pool and Track Centre or Larkswood and use of the fitness room/gym at the YMCA. In addition to these we have a specialist dance teacher and self-defence coach who deliver high quality, enjoyable sessions, developing skills you may not have had the opportunity to work on before. There is also the option for you to participate in a variety of activities at school including basketball, trampolining and volleyball.

The pathway option system ensures that you select the activities you would enjoy the most, increasing your motivation, enjoyment and hopefully continuing with the activity in future when you leave Walthamstow School For Girls.

In addition to this, the PE Department runs a variety of clubs and practice sessions that all students can attend if you want to improve your skills or just enjoy yourselves, including a GCSE Dance class.

*Ms R Warren
Head of Physical Education*

Core Religious Studies

By studying RS you will develop your emotional intelligence, awareness and resilience. It will empower you to form and express your views and have them questioned by your peers. Collaborative discussion will often lead you to clarify your refine your opinion, which the Ancient Greek philosopher Plato saw as the essence of Philosophy!

RS equips you with the tools and skills to understand how to build, critique and interrogate arguments, and to understand causal links between beliefs, circumstance and behaviour.

Philosophical thinking is increasing sought after by employers and can open up careers in politics, law, finance, charity and education. I hope your study of RS will lead to life-long interest in some of the issues we examine.

*Mr. Bigglestone
Head of RE*

Option Subjects

We hope that you will make the most of your subject choices. If you are not sure about the choices after reading this book speak to your parents or carers, your tutor, Ms Warren or Mr Shackson.

Option Subjects

GCSE Information And Communication Technology (ICT)

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Specification Code: 2IT01

The Department of Education has decided that ICT will no longer be offered as a GCSE or A Level subject from Sept 2017 so this is the last year in which we will be offering this qualification.

In the future everyone will need to be able to make effective use of technology, whether at work, to support their studies or just to have fun. An excellent knowledge and understanding of information and communication technology will be essential in this fast changing world. This course will not only teach students a range of practical skills, it will also focus on the growing use of new technologies and the impact that these technologies are having on the world in which we live.

Unit 1

In this unit students will explore how digital technology impacts on the lives of individuals, organisations and society. They will learn about current and emerging digital technologies, such as smart phones and watches, optical head-mounted displays, laptops, e-readers, tablets, PCs, digital cameras, video cameras and the issues raised by their use in a range of contexts (learning and earning, leisure, shopping and money management, health and wellbeing and on the move). They will develop an awareness of the risks that are inherent in using ICT and the features of safe, secure and responsible practice. This unit is worth 40% of the final mark and is assessed by a 90 minute written exam taken at the end of the course.

Unit 2

In this unit students will broaden and enhance their practical ICT skills. They will work with a range of digital tools and techniques to produce effective ICT solutions in a range of contexts. They will learn to reflect critically on their own and others' use of ICT and to adopt safe, secure and responsible practice. The current project is about students using their ICT skills to organise a music festival. This unit is worth 60% of the final mark and is assessed by a practical 40 hour controlled assessment.

At the end of the course students will be confident, discerning users of technology and will be able to respond effectively to ever faster technological change.

The course is designed for students who simply want to have a better knowledge and understanding of a range of technologies and students who are considering a career in IT.

Mr. R. Bryant

Director of Information and Communication Technology Faculty

GCSE Computer Science

Examination Board: TBC

Specification Code: TBC

The most important aspect of computer science is problem solving, an essential skill for life. Students on this course will study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of contexts. Because computers solve problems to serve people, there is a significant human side to computer science.

This course gives students a real, in depth understanding of how computer technology works, including looking at the technology inside a smart phone or tablet and the future use of robots.

The course will give an insight into what happens “behind the scenes”, including computer programming. Students will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to further learning and everyday life. GCSE Computer Science is an English Baccalaureate subject.

The course consists of 3 main components:

Practical Programming Activity – This involves the completion of a non-examined assessment (NEA) which is worth 20% of the overall mark. You will be given 20 hours to complete the task using the Python programming language.

Computing Fundamentals – This involves completing two written exams each worth 40% of the overall mark.

The following topics will be covered:

- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Programming.
- Fundamentals of data representation
- Computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer networks
- Fundamentals of cyber security
- Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy

This course is ideal for any student who would like to go on to higher study in Computer Science or Information Technology or would like a career in the exciting world of technology.

This course will also provide students with a firm foundation in programming, giving them many of the skills required to set up their own high tech business e.g. app development, wearable tech production or even robotics.

Mr Bryant

Director of Information and Communication Technology Faculty

GCSE Economics

*Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 4135*

Economics is about making sense of your life. A huge range of choices and uncertainties face you every day. With an income you probably feel is too limited, what do you really want to buy? How will your holiday money be affected by a change in the exchange rate? What should you look for in a career? Some of these questions are serious, some not, but they all impact on your life - and not your life alone, but on the lives of others as well. A simple decision to buy a Fairtrade product, for example has implications well beyond where you live, and even beyond the UK. What you buy can make the difference between extreme poverty and a sustainable life for a Third World farmer. The brand of clothes you wear could send a message that will help stop businesses exploiting child labour. Thinking hard about the energy consumption of your new computer before you buy could help reduce global warming. 'Personal Economics' is about understanding the issues behind the choices you make.

Studying AQA Economics at GCSE level involves exploring these issues in two ways.

Firstly it looks at personal economics:

- How we handle money and make decisions with limited incomes
- The purpose, nature and rewards of work, and what it means to be unemployed
- The impact of trading goods and services internationally
- How changes in the exchange rate impact the economy
- How the global economy affects the world of work

Secondly it looks at how the economy is managed from the perspective of governments:

- The government's economic goals
- How the economy works
- How and why governments try to control the economy
- The influence of the EU on the UK economy

GCSE Economics involves investigating all these aspects, and more, through applying economic ideas to real life situations. Using the tools and insights of Economics helps you look at the facts from different angles to explain why things happen in the way they do. It even enables you to predict what might happen in the future. It helps you make choices by thinking things through and using reasoned judgments to make informed decisions.

How you will be assessed:



*Ms N Shafiq
Teacher of Economics*

GCSE Separate Science

Examination Board: AQA (TBC)

Specification Codes: TBC

Separate Science is an option for students who wish to extend their Science studies. The course is of a very challenging nature with the latter units overlapping with 'A' Level content.

It is strongly advised students consider Separate Science carefully as an option choice. As well as being a very demanding choice it would involve studying 14 lessons of science over two weeks. Students who are not confident in science and do not have a genuine passion for it will struggle.

You might choose this option because of career or Further Education ambitions. It may be because you enjoy doing Science and wish to pursue it in more detail.

Taking Separate Science would involve studying the three Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) as three separate GCSEs. These would be studied in parallel using the Combined Science allocation of the timetable but with the addition of an option subject's allocation on top. It will take the same 5 lessons as any other school option.

The same content will be covered as for Science and Additional Science but there will be extra, more challenging work on top of this.

Assessment will be composed of six 1 hour 45 minute examinations (two for each subject) at the end of Year 11. Students will also be required to carry out 24 experiments on which they will be examined.

Completing the Separate Science course would give you an excellent grounding in scientific literacy, science at work and also provides an excellent start for studying sciences Post 16, including 'A' levels in the separate sciences and degree courses in Medicine, Pharmacy and Engineering.

Mr C Kerr

Head of Science Faculty

GCSE Separate Science

GCSE Languages

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Specification Codes: TBA

What you will study.

You already know a lot of the vocabulary and grammar that you will need for GCSE. You know how to talk about yourself, your family and friends, your hobbies, where you live, school, holidays, food and drink. You will build on these topics during your GCSE course, as well as moving on to new

topics. You are already part way there.

In lessons and working with the Language Assistant you will learn to understand a lot more of the language when you hear it and read it. You will be able to share your interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak your chosen language. You will learn about the countries where the language is spoken and an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and higher education providers look for.

You will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being confident about speaking in public, using problem-solving strategies etc. You will create greater opportunities for yourself to work abroad, or for companies in the UK with international links. Many employers look for people who speak a foreign language.

We offer GCSE courses in French, Spanish and Urdu.

How will I be assessed?

Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing (25% each)

All skills will be assessed with a terminal exam at the end of your two year course. Listening and reading exams will predominantly take the form of multiple choice questions with some longer questions. In the writing exam you will be asked to write some sentences, paragraphs and one longer question and to translate some material into the target language. In the speaking exam you will take an oral test including role plays, photo-based discussion and longer discussions on two different themes. Please note that there may be some slight changes over the coming year due to the new exams awaiting final approval.

Ms R Griffin

Head of Languages Faculty

GCSE Latin

Examination Board: WJEC
Specification Code: C990PA or C990PB

Students will learn how to understand and translate Latin text. In addition they will read and interpret Latin literature, as well as learning about daily life in the Roman world. Students are supported in their learning using materials and resources developed by the Cambridge Schools Classics Project.

Why study Latin?

Latin effectively develops and trains the mind. Latin is taught to be read, not spoken. Students are taught to recognise and translate Latin words and passages. It requires concentration, absorption and attention to detail, which are valuable skills and character traits.

Latin is the best preparation for learning any language. Latin helps students to gain an understanding of the mechanics and structure of language, not least of all English. It can be used to grasp the basics of many modern languages and provides an insight into the language used within the Sciences and Law.

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Latin counts as a language subject in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

How Are Students Assessed?

The final assessment in Year 11 comprises of three written exams:

Component 1: Latin Language

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - 50% of qualification

This paper is in two sections.

Section A: A range of short comprehension questions testing understanding of the storyline (55% of the marks for this component).

Translation of a passage from Latin into English, with a gradation of difficulty (35% of the marks for this component).

Section B: EITHER translation from English into Latin OR the permitted alternative i.e. recognise, analyse and explain items of syntax and accidence (10% of the marks for this component)

Component 2: Latin Literature and Sources (Themes)

Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes - 30% of qualification

A prescription of Latin literature, both prose and verse, on a theme, together with prescribed ancient source materials on the same theme.

A choice of one of two themes is offered e.g. *Schools and Education* or *A Day at the Races*.

This is an open book assessment and students will answer questions on the resources provided.

Either Component 3A: Latin Literature (Narratives) or Component 3B: Roman Civilisation

Written examination: 1 hour - 20% of qualification

3A: A prescription of Latin literature forming a narrative, accompanied by adjacent passage(s) in English.

A choice of one of two narratives (one verse, one prose) is offered e.g. *Ovid (Echo and Narcissus)* or *Tacitus (Germanicus and Piso)*.

This is an open book assessment and students will answer questions on the resources provided.

OR

3B: A prescribed topic of Roman Civilisation

A choice of one of two topics is offered e.g. *Roman Entertainment and Leisure* or *Religion in the Roman World*. Students will answer questions relating to one of the prescribed topics.

Ms Famiglietti, Teacher of Latin

GCSE Drama

Examination Board: WJEC

Drama as an examination subject is more demanding than any other drama that you will have done before. Apart from cooperation and concentration during lessons, you will be expected to commit yourself to rehearsals during lunchtimes and after school. You will also have many opportunities to visit the theatre during this course and reflect on how the plays you have seen can inform your own work. The majority of your lessons will be practical but there is an important element of written work.

In order to comply with the examination requirements, we ask you to complete a drama journal, after each session, for homework. You are also required to have a pen with you at all times so that you are able to 'capture' your learning by writing things down at various stages throughout the lessons.

How the course is examined? *We follow the WJEC Drama Specification*

COMPONENT ONE: Devising Theatre (40%)

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated

Candidates will devise a practical performance using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus set by WJEC. Candidates may choose either acting or a theatre design skill.

Candidates must produce:

- A performance/realization of their devised theatre piece.
- A portfolio of supporting evidence.
- An evaluation of the final performance or design.

COMPONENT TWO: Performing from a text (20%)

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner

Candidates may choose either acting or a theatre design skill. Candidates will study two extracts from the same performance text selected by your Drama teacher. They will then create one performance using sections of text from both extracts. This is externally assessed by a visiting examiner on a date between March and May of Year 11.

COMPONENT THREE: Interpreting Theatre (40%)

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Section A: Set Text

A series of questions on **one** set text from a choice of the following five:

1. ***The Tempest***, William Shakespeare
2. ***The Caucasian Chalk Circle***, Bertolt Brecht
3. ***Hard to Swallow***, Mark Wheeller
4. ***War Horse***, Michael Morpurgo, adapted by Nick Stafford
5. ***DNA***, Dennis Kelly

Section B: Live Theatre Review

The candidates answer **one** question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

The course is hard work, but very rewarding. You will develop a variety of Drama skills and techniques including acting, design, creative skills, communication, interpersonal, evaluative and group work skills.

Ms E Cornford

Deputy Head of Performing Arts Faculty

GCSE Music

Exam Board: TBC

The GCSE Music is made up of three areas:

Performing Music (30%)

One solo performance and one ensemble performance to be recorded in Year 11.

Composing Music (30%)

Compose two pieces. One composition must be to a brief set by the exam board. The other composition can be to the candidates own brief.

Listening/Appraising/Understanding Music (40%)

Written examination testing the following aspects of musical understanding:

Musical Elements

- Melody
- Harmony
- Tonality
- Form and structure
- Dynamics
- Sonority
- Texture
- Tempo
- Rhythm
- Metre

Musical Contexts

- The purpose and intention of composers, performers and those who commission music
- The effect of the occasion, audience and choice of venue on the way music is composed and performed
- How music is created, developed and performed in different social, historical and cultural contexts

Musical Language

- Reading and writing treble and bass clef staff notation in simple time
- Reading treble and bass clef staff notation in compound time
- Chord symbols e.g. G7
- Key signatures to four sharps and flats
- Musical vocabulary related to areas of study

Some of these will be assessed through set works and some through unfamiliar music.

GCSE Music seeks to integrate the skills of performing, composing, listening and appraising. GCSE students are expected to put a lot of effort into their studies, take the initiative to improve their musicality and be disciplined enough to practice and attend extra-curricular musical activities. Having an open mind and the willingness to embrace styles and genres of music that may be unfamiliar is very important.

As part of their course students who opt for GCSE Music will be entitled to lessons on an instrument of their choice, funded by the school.

*Mr M Burstow
Head of Performing Arts Faculty*

GCSE Physical Education

Exam Board: Edexcel

GCSE Physical Education is made up of 4 component areas;

Theory Examination (60%)

The units that will be covered are:

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems (36%)

Applied anatomy and physiology.

Movement analysis.

Physical training.

There will be an exam on this unit, which will be 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Component 2: Health and Performance (24%)

Health, fitness and well-being.

Sport psychology.

Social-cultural influences.

There will be an exam on this unit, which will be a 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Component 3: Practical Examination (30%)

Practical performance in three activities as a player/performer.

- One activity must be a team activity.
- One activity must be an individual activity.
- Final activity can either a team or individual.

Component 4: Performance analysis and evaluation PEP (10%)

- Analysis and evaluation of the performance to bring about personal improvement in physical activity
- The PEP will cover a six to eight week period, and can relate to any one physical activity of their choice from a list of activities.

The areas of content covered are;

- Aim and planning analysis.
- Carrying out and monitoring their PEP.
- Evaluation of data and programme.

Submissions of PEP should either written (1500 words) or verbal (presentation 15 minutes).

In GCSE PE students will have the opportunity to develop and apply their knowledge, skills and understanding of physical education through selected practical activities. Students will also develop the skills necessary to analyse and improve performance.

Ms L Wood

Interim Head of Physical Education

GCSE Physical Education

NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Health and Fitness (V-Cert)

Exam Board: NCFE

The V-Cert is made up of 4 different units. The V-Cert is a new sports course that contains both practical and theory elements. It is predominantly coursework based with just one externally set paper.

Unit 1 Health and Fitness

This unit aims to introduce students to the principles of health and fitness. Students will understand the main components of fitness and the principles of training. They will look at the benefits and the effects of exercise on the body systems.

- The unit is 100% coursework and internally assessed.

Unit 2 Healthy Lifestyles

This unit aims to provide students with the knowledge and understanding of how food and physical activity can be contributed to a healthy lifestyle. They will learn the importance of diet and nutrition. Students will understand how motivation affects participation in physical activity.

- The unit is 100% coursework and internally assessed.

Unit 3 Preparing and Planning for Health and Fitness

Students will understand factors that affect a health and fitness plan. This will enable them to prepare and plan a health and fitness plan to improve their exercise and diet.

- This unit is externally set and a marked assessment paper.

Unit 4 Develop a Personal Health and Fitness Programme

This unit will give students the opportunity to bring together their learning gained throughout the course and develop a health and fitness programme. They will gain knowledge and skill in carrying out fitness tests. Students will understand the importance of preparation and appropriate warm up and cool downs.

- The unit is 100% coursework and internally assessed.

All units within the V-Cert will be graded with Pass, Merit, Distinction. Throughout the V-Cert course students will be able to gain knowledge of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle and devise a health and fitness programme. The course is ideal for students who love sport and are interested in developing their knowledge of physiology and biology, diet, health and fitness.

Ms L Wood

Interim Head of Physical Education

Art, Design and Technology (ADT)

Options include:

- **Art & Design: Fine Art**
- **Food Preparation & Nutrition**
- **Textiles Technology**
- **Product Design**

All these GCSEs allow students to further their creative skills, essential in today's ever competitive job market.

ADT Subjects:

- Develop and extend your planning skills
- Promote independent thinking
- Enable you to work as a team
- Develop your creative thinking skills
- Promote practical thinking
- Develop problem solving skills
- Encourage you to try new techniques and experiment
- Learn about new materials and making techniques
- Use ICT in an imaginative and creative way

Careers

GCSEs are a pathway to Further Education and a good qualification and any GCSE will allow you to progress on to your eventual career or careers of choice.

Many jobs or careers that our students will pursue are not even yet in existence in our ever changing world. However it is certain that whatever you find yourself doing you will need to be adaptable, creative and forward thinking. ADT subjects promote all of this and more. Careers in the creative field are probably the fastest growing in the current job market.

Mr M Streader
Head of Art, Design and Technology Faculty

Art, Design and Technology (ADT)

GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art

Examination Board: TBA

Specification Code: TBA

Fine Art GCSE is an exciting, fulfilling and demanding course. You will develop your creative ideas and thinking skills whilst building the confidence and skills to explore research and extend your ideas through the completion of artwork.

You will have the opportunity to experiment with different media in order to explore your strengths and preferences. The course will focus on painting and drawing, sculpture, ceramics and mixed media.

Fine Art involves:

- Selecting and organising information
- Recording observations
- Responding to work from other times and cultures
- Analysing and evaluating sources
- Developing and exploring materials and processes
- Refining ideas to show development
- Creating exciting and original final pieces
- Being creative and appreciating the visual world around us

Fine Art will also help you to develop many other important and valuable skills. These include:

- Organisation
- Life skills
- Independent working, as well as collaboration
- Communication skills
- Creativity

Art as a career

Many careers are linked into this subject. From Fine art you can gain access to a vast range of art and design courses such as set design for film and theatre, graphic design, textiles design, photography, illustration and animation. There are hundreds of possibilities in the creative field.

All career paths will require you to be inventive, resourceful and creative. Further qualifications such as A Level Art and BTEC in Art and Design subjects are available to you after GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

Your GCSE grade will be awarded as a result of completing two units of work.

Unit 1

60% of your overall mark is gained from a portfolio of controlled assessment completed in Years 10 and 11.

Unit 2

40% of your overall mark is gained from an externally set exam.

Mr M Streader

Head of Art, Design and Technology Faculty

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Examination Board: *WJEC Equdas*
Qualification number: *601/8093/6*

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition offers a unique opportunity for students to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Following this qualification will encourage learners to cook and enable them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously now and later in life.

It offers a balance between practical and theory work and is a suitable qualification for those who wish to progress to Further Education, but also offers valuable preparation for those entering the world of work.

During a *GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition* course, learners are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following areas of study:

- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- Cooking and food preparation
- Food commodities (eg Ingredients)
- Food spoilage
- Planning meals
- Food provenance / manufacturing (i.e. Where food comes from)
- Sustainability
- The science of food

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition will also help you to develop many other important and valuable life skills. These include:

- Organisation
- Problem-solving
- Independent working, as well as collaboration
- Communication skills
- Creativity

Food Preparation and Nutrition as a career

With the obesity crisis now costing the country an estimated £47 billion every year, careers in diet and nutrition are crucial. There are also hundreds of possibilities in the catering field. Perhaps you would like to run your own bakery, café or restaurant, forge a career in business with one of the UK's supermarket giants or develop recipes for books or magazines.

How will I be assessed?

COMPONENT 1: Written Examination, 1 hour 45 mins (50%)

One paper which will be externally set and marked. All questions are compulsory and targeted at the full range of GCSE grades.

COMPONENT 2: Controlled Assessment, 20 hours total (50%):

Assessment 1: Food Investigation Assessment (15% of total marks)

Assessment 2: Food Preparation Assessment (35% of total marks)

Mr M Streader / Ms S Wilkinson

Head of Art, Design and Technology Faculty / Teacher i/c Food & Nutrition

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

GCSE Design and Technology: Textiles Technology

Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 4570

Textiles Technology is an excellent choice for those of you who feel you may want to pursue careers in Textiles or Fashion. You will be taught in a highly supportive learning environment developing and building a range of textile based skills. You will have the opportunity to be innovative and creative. Successful students will learn that risk taking leads to discovery of new and exciting design ideas.

Textiles Technology involves:

- Learning about different fibres, fabrics and components
- Developing creativity and understanding how designers get inspiration for design ideas
- Understanding the issues that influence textile design and marketing
- Understanding commercial design and manufacture through product analysis
- Investigating and using methods to colour, decorate and stitch textile products
- Learning about the importance of sustainable design
- Developing designing and presentation skills
- Developing a range of practical 'making' skills
- Designing and making high quality textiles products

Textiles Technology will also help you to develop many other important and valuable skills. These include:

- Organisation
- Life skills
- Independent working, as well as collaboration
- ICT
- Communication skills

Textiles Technology as a career

The textiles industry is a big employer in the UK and there are a wide range of career opportunities such as; Textile or Fashion Designer, Trend Forecaster, Fashion Merchandiser, Pattern Maker, Fashion Stylist, Costume Designer, Fashion Photographer to name a few! A number of colleges offer suitable courses for you to progress on to after you have completed your GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

Your GCSE grade will be awarded as a result of completing two units of work:

Unit 1

A written examination worth 40% of the total marks which will require you to apply what you have learned during the course in an examination situation.

Unit 2

This is a controlled assessment project which involves designing and making a Textiles product. The themes for controlled assessment are set by the exam board and include a wide range of possibilities. Work is completed within lessons, and this project folder is worth 60% of the final mark.

Mr M Streader
Head of Art, Design and Technology Faculty

GCSE Design and Technology: Product Design

Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 4555

Product Design is a relatively new and exciting course we are offering at Walthamstow School For Girls. We have chosen this specification as we believe it has something to offer everyone. If you are not sure which D&T option suits you best then this could be the course for you. Product Design has a flexible approach and allows you to work in the materials you feel most comfortable with.

Product Design involves:

- Learning about different materials and their properties such as wood, metal, plastics, smart materials, textiles and electronics
- Learning and developing a broad range of skills and knowledge that span all D&T subjects
- Experimenting, testing and analysing existing products
- Being creative and designing new products
- Understanding commercial design and manufacturing techniques
- Developing CAD/CAM skills
- Understanding the importance of sustainable design
- Using modelling and prototyping to develop ideas
- Develop drawing and presentation skills
- Making high quality, innovative products

Product Design will also help you to develop many other important and valuable skills. These include:

- Organisation
- Life skills
- Independent working, as well as collaboration
- ICT
- Communication skills

Product Design as a career

Many careers are linked into this subject. From product design to set design for film and theatre, graphic design and textiles design. There are hundreds of possibilities in the creative field. All career paths will require you to be inventive, resourceful and creative. The ability to solve problems using a variety of techniques will be very important no matter what your future holds.

How will I be assessed?

Your GCSE grade will be awarded as a result of completing two units of work:

Unit 1

A written examination worth 40% of the total marks which will require you to apply what you have learned during the course in an examination situation.

Unit 2

This is a controlled assessment project which involves designing and making a product from a very wide range of topics set by the exam board. Work is completed within lessons, and this project folder and practical work is worth 60% of the final mark.

Mr M Streader
Head of Art, Design and Technology Faculty

Humanities

Introduction

Over the past three years you have been studying Humanities and within these lessons you have been taught three discrete subjects: Geography, History and Religious Education (RE). As you make your GCSE choices you can consider opting for Geography, History and/or Religious Studies GCSEs.

Humanities subjects enable you to learn how to think creatively and critically, to reason, and to ask questions. Through Humanities you learn about the values of different cultures, different places and about how history is made. It preserves the great accomplishments of the past and helps us to understand the world we live in today, and gives us tools to imagine the future.

Mr R Truan
Head of Humanities Faculty

GCSE Geography

Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: Draft 8035

Why choose Geography?

Geography is about the present and the future, the world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography explains why, and helps to prepare you for those changes. The transferable skills which Geography fosters are an asset in the complex world of employment today.

Geography tackles the big issues:

- Cultural understanding
- Commerce, trade and industry
- Environmental responsibility
- Our global interdependence

This course is suitable for you if you...

- Want to learn about and understand the world you live in
- Are concerned about world-wide issues such as famine, pollution and poverty
- Like to complete practical work away from the classroom
- Enjoy learning through investigating issues and places

What you will study:

You will follow the AQA geography course which is designed to energise and interest you by giving you an insight into future challenges through the study of current issues. Students will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

This unit is concerned with physical processes and systems, their dynamic nature and human interaction with them at a range of scales and in a range of places. The unit will include exciting topics like tectonic hazards, tropical storms, climate change, coasts, rivers, glaciers and tropical rainforests.

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

This unit is concerned with human processes, systems and outcomes and how they change. They are studied in a range of places, at a variety of scales and include places in various states of development. This unit will include interesting and relevant topics such as population, migration and globalisation as well as food, energy and water management.

Paper 3: Geographical applications

The geographical applications unit is designed to allow students to show their breadth of understanding and appreciation of the connections between the different topics they have studied. They will be expected to use a number of geographical skills to understand issues from around the world. They will also be examined on fieldwork that they will have undertaken during year 10.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1: Written paper – 1 hour 30 minutes – 35%

Paper 2: Written Paper – 1 hour 30 minutes – 35%

Paper 3: Written Paper – 1 hour – 30%

Mr J Mace
Head of Geography Department

GCSE History

*Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification Code: 1H10*

Why choose History?

History is a popular GCSE subject in which many students do very well. You will study History through the eyes of the people who lived at the time. You will enjoy and therefore, do well in the course if you are interested in: debating, and understanding why there are sometimes different but equally valid points of view on the same subject; finding out how people's lives have changed and how people in the past may have thought differently from us.

You will be choosing a GCSE subject:

GCSE History is highly regarded amongst Colleges, Universities and employers and will help you develop many useful skills. You will be much more critical of what you read and hear on the news and it will develop your abilities to reason and argue your point of view with supporting information.

What will you study?

The specification is the new Edexcel Specification for GCSE History. In History you will be studying for three examinations which will all be taken at the end of the course.

Unit 1 is a **Thematic Study** and you will study **Medicine in Britain, c1250–present** and **The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches**. The key themes in this option are people's understanding of the cause of diseases, the treatment and prevention of illness and the role of factors such as government, individuals and technology at leading progress and change. The unit will be divided into four main periods of medical history; medieval Britain, the Renaissance, the Industrial Revolution and the twentieth century. You will also study the impact of the First World War on medical developments. This part of the specification will lead to a **1 hour 15 minute examination** which will consist of **30%** of the overall GCSE History grade.

Unit 2 consists of a **Period Study** which will look at **Superpower relations in the Cold War 1941-91** and a **British Depth Study** which will cover **Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-1088**. The period study will look at the origins of the Cold War 1941 to 1958, the increased tension 1958-70 and the end of the Cold War 1970-91. The depth study will examine the Norman Conquest, William I's rule over England and the feudal system in England. This part of the specification will lead to a **1 hour 45 minute examination** and will consist of **40%** of the overall GCSE History grade.

Unit 3 is a **Modern Depth Study** which will cover **Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39**. You will look at the Weimar Republic 1918-29, Hitler's Rise to Power 1919-33, Nazi control and dictatorship 1933-39 and Life in Nazi Germany 1933-39. This part of the specification will lead to a **1 hour 20 minute examination** and will consist of **30%** of the overall GCSE History grade.

What will you be required to do?

Study a variety of materials, discuss them and interpret them. The types of sources will include; textbooks, letters, diaries, newspapers, pictures, cartoons, maps, photographs, films, videos, and television news programmes. Independent research is an important part of this course.

How will you be assessed?

This is a linear course which means that you will sit three examinations at the end of Year 11. Units 1 and 3 are worth 30% and Unit 2 is worth 40% of the overall grade.

*Mr R Truan
Head of Humanities Faculty*

GCSE Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION CODE: IRB0

A full GCSE in Religious Studies will be one of your options. By choosing to study Religious Studies to GCSE you are inviting yourself to investigate the big questions: it provides a platform for you to explore the most pressing and polarising issues, from matters of faith to morality. You will study the perspectives of others but, importantly, develop **your own place** within debates. This is important not only for success in examinations, but to think and speak with confidence on issues in today's news, and even what politicians are saying as they court your future vote.

By studying Religious Studies you will develop your emotional intelligence, awareness and resilience. It will empower you to form and express your views and have them questioned by your peers. Collaborative discussion will often lead you to clarify your refine your opinion, which the Ancient Greek philosopher Plato saw as the essence of Philosophy!

Religious Studies equips you with the tools and skills to understand how to build, critique and interrogate arguments, and to understand causal links between beliefs, circumstance and behaviour.

Philosophical thinking is increasingly sought after by employers and can open up careers in politics, law, finance, charity and education. We hope that your study of Religious Studies will lead to life-long interest in some of the issues we examine.

What will you study?

Religion and Ethics (50%)

You will study these four units based upon one religion:

- Belief in God
- Living the religious life
- Marriage and the family
- Matters of life and death

Religion, Peace and Conflict (50%)

You will study these four units based upon a different religion:

- Belief in God
- Living the religious life
- Crime and punishment
- Peace and conflict

How will you be assessed?

To achieve a full GCSE in Religious Studies, you will need to sit two 1 hr 45 minute examinations at the end of Year 11.

Mr. Bigglestone
Head of Religious Studies

GCSE Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics

BTEC First Award in Creative Media Production

Examination Board: EDEXCEL (Level 2 Award)

Programme Code: FXF53

TV, film, websites, radio, games and publishing are all part of the creative industry. The creative industry is one of the UK's biggest industries and is worth more than £36 billion a year. In the UK there are 1.3 million people employed in the creative industry.

What does it take to become a successful creative media producer? BTEC First Award in Creative Media Production provides a practical, real-world approach to learning and develops specific knowledge and skills learners need to work successfully in the industry.

What will you learn?

Digital Moving Image Production

Have you ever thought about how films and videos are made? In this unit, you will explore how moving image productions are made. You will focus on camerawork, sound and editing. You will then make your own video production.

Website Production

Have you ever wanted to build your own website or wondered how websites work? In this unit you will investigate the purpose and uses of websites. You will gain the appropriate skills required for the design and creation of websites. You will then make your own website.

Digital Media Sectors and Audiences

Film, television, podcasts, e-newspapers, websites, games – have you ever wondered who creates all the media that you use? In this unit you explore the different digital media sectors and the products they produce.

Planning and Pitching a Digital Media Product

Have you ever thought how that great idea for a media product which, at the moment, is only in your head, could become a reality? In this unit you will develop your verbal, written and visual communication skills to enable you to understand the needs of your client and to help you formulate, develop and pitch your own ideas for a media product.

Methods of Assessment

- Electronic and verbal presentations
- Producing a short film
- Producing a website
- Written proposals, reports or forms
- Examination

Mr Jones

Teacher of BTEC Creative Media Production

BTEC First Award in Business

Examination Board: EDEXCEL (Level 2 Award)

Programme Code: BGK95

The BTEC First Award in Business offers an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of business. The two core units provide the opportunity to develop the key enterprise and financial skills and knowledge necessary to enable you to understand how businesses recognise opportunities, and build on them to succeed. You will also understand how a business makes and manages its money, and plans for the future.

This course is suitable for you if you:

- Are interested in working independently
- Would like to explore Business Enterprise
- Would like to start a Small Business
- Enjoy using your own initiative
- Can meet deadlines on a regular basis
- Have a passion for learning

For the BTEC First Award you will be required to complete two core units and two specialist units.

The qualification is available after two years of study.

Core Units

Enterprise in the Business World - opportunity to start-up and run a small business.

Finance for Business - understand how business accounts are calculated and managed.

Optional Units

Promoting a Brand - understand what branding is and have the opportunity to design a brand campaign for your own start-up business.

Principles of Customer Service - understand how customer service takes place in different organisations and be able to show good customer service skills.

Your work will be assessed through three portfolio assignments and one external assessment.

All students can achieve a pass, merit or distinction.

Ms N Shafiq

Teacher of BTEC Business