

St Gabriel's

Your Route to Success



GCSE Courses & Curriculum
2019-2021

INTRODUCTION

It is hard to believe that the time has come for you to make the choices that will start to define the way that your educational path will follow, but at the same time, it is hugely exciting, too.

In this booklet you will find information relating to the **Key Stage 4 curriculum at St Gabriel's**.

Options are a pivotal time in your education and provide an opportunity for you to develop further your academic interests, so embrace the next few weeks with the enthusiasm that you have for all that you do. Use the information evening as a time to discover and question. Find out what a GCSE in Computer Science is all about, learn what is expected of you in History or Geography – explore all the options that are open to you.

Richard Smith, Principal

I am delighted to be your Director of Curriculum as you begin to look into your GCSE choices and to consider the range of subjects that we offer at Key Stage 4. Whilst you will be familiar with the majority of these subjects, there will also be the opportunity for you to consider subjects that you have not yet met. Please use this evening and the coming weeks to speak to your subject teachers, your tutor and myself as you begin the process of choosing your options for the next two years.

In Years 10 and 11, you will study towards a minimum of 9 GCSEs; 5 core subjects (* in the subject pages), a Modern Foreign Language and 3 option subjects. You

will also have Physical Education lessons which are non-examined. The majority of students will have a study period once a week with the exception being students who wish to study Ancient Greek as an additional GCSE. All GCSE examinations will be assessed at the end of Year 11.

When there are a small number of students opting for a given subject, we reserve the right to withdraw the subject or to replace some of the teaching time with a designated private study activity. In these rare circumstances, we will contact you as soon as possible to discuss any arrangements that may be made.

Alongside your GCSE choices, you will continue to take part in our PSHE programme. This is delivered by form tutors and enhanced by visiting speakers, and incorporates comprehensive careers education and guidance, including input from ISCO (the Independent Schools Careers Organisation).

Do not be daunted by this decision making process; there are lots of people from whom you can get advice – just ask! Take into account your strengths and weaknesses; for example, would you work well with a subject involving controlled assessment or are you better working towards a final examination? Be informed and then make decisions on what you are interested in studying, while trying to keep as many future career paths open to you as possible. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me.

Anna Chicken, Director of Curriculum



KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

As you are already aware, this is a very important time in your education. Now is the time to seek guidance and advice from a wide range of sources to ensure that you take the best possible combination of subjects. These will need to be chosen to play to your strengths and to ensure that any potential career paths are kept open.

Your form tutor plays a pivotal role in the GCSE process, delivering the PSHE programme; giving advice and guidance where necessary, and providing the first point of contact for any parental concerns. **Subject teachers will offer impartial advice as to the subject's suitability for you, especially with respect to possible career paths and the subject's demands.**

You must choose one subject from each option group to ensure a good balance of subjects. Whilst we will do our utmost to ensure your choices are met, on occasions this may not be possible. In this event, Mrs Chicken will meet with you to discuss the best way forward.

If you have any questions about any part of this process, please do not hesitate to speak Mrs Chicken or myself.

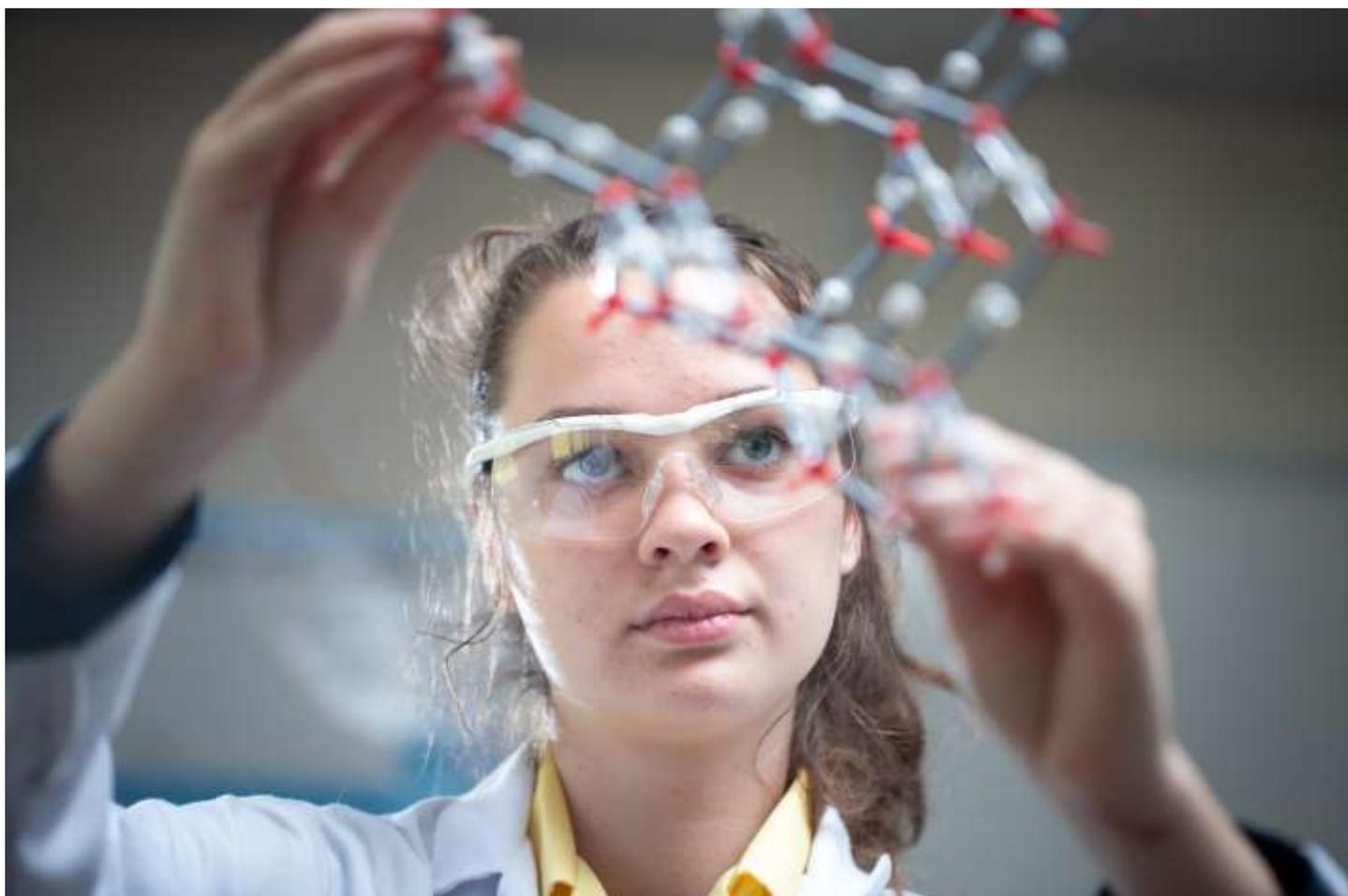
Emma Hammons, Head of Upper School

Key Dates

- 23 January: Options Presentation and Subject Fair
PSHE sessions during the first half of the Spring Term will guide students through the decision-making process.
- 31 January: **Year 9 Parents' Evening: an opportunity** for further discussion about option choices with subject teachers.
- 8 February: Deadline for the return of the GCSE option choices form to tutors. Students should indicate their first choice option subjects.

In the Summer Term, a letter will be **sent home confirming each student's** GCSE option choices.

Students wishing to change their choices after 8 February should contact Mrs Chicken, Director of Curriculum, immediately.



KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

What Do I Choose?

- Core subjects are compulsory
- Choose one subject from each option group
- At least one of your option choices must be either History or Geography (you may choose both if you wish)
- Classical Greek is available as an additional GCSE option choice. If you wish to study this subject, please talk to Mrs Chicken.

Core	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
English Language	Business	Art & Design: Fine Art	Art & Design: Photography
English Literature	Classical Civilisation	Dance	Art & Design: Textile Design
Mathematics	Geography	Design & Technology	Computer Science
Modern Foreign Language (French, Italian, Mandarin Chinese or Spanish)	History	Food Preparation & Nutrition	Drama
Science	Latin	Geography	French
Non-Examined Core		Music	History
Private Study		Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics	Italian
Physical Education			Physical Education
PSHE			Spanish

Staff Contact Details

Mrs Angela Chapman
Vice-Principal

viceprincipal@stgabriels.co.uk

Mrs Jenny Knott
(9S)

jknott@stgabriels.co.uk

Mrs Anna Chicken
Director of Curriculum

achicken@stgabriels.co.uk

Miss Yi Zhang
(9T)

yzhang@stgabriels.co.uk

Mrs Emma Hammons
Head of Upper School

ehammons@stgabriels.co.uk

Miss Annie Keenleyside
(9G)

akeenleyside@stgabriels.co.uk





ART & DESIGN: FINE ART

Examination Board & Specification:

WJEC Eduqas Art & Design: Art Craft & Design
(Unendorsed)

Head of Department:

Mr Paul Spurrett (pspurrett@stgabriels.co.uk)

Expectations for independent study:

The Art Department runs a number of activities and visits both in and out of school time. Students are able to work in the art rooms during the lunch break and after school. Visits to museums and galleries are considered to be an important part of the GCSE course.

Aims of the course are to encourage students to:

- Actively engage with the process of art and design using a wide range of creative media
- Become confident in taking risks and learning from mistakes, when exploring and experimenting with ideas, materials, tools and techniques
- Develop cultural knowledge, understanding and application of art techniques, in historical and contemporary contexts
- Develop ideas, plan, produce and evaluate products
- Develop creative skills through learning to use imaginative and intuitive powers when exploring and creating outcomes which are original and individual
- Understand art, craft and design processes, associated equipment and safe working practices.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

Yes.

General Description and Course Content:

Students undertaking Fine Art will have the opportunity to explore practical and relevant critical and contextual sources such as the work of historical and contemporary fine artists and the different purposes, intentions and functions of fine art as appropriate to their own work.

This course offers students the opportunity to explore their creative, artistic talents through a wide range of different mediums, exploring traditional and contemporary practices. These could include: drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, mixed media, printed or dyed materials, textile work, ceramics, jewellery, photo transfer onto fabric or other media and digital image making. Observational drawing is a key element and forms the basis of their work, leading to experimentation which will culminate in sophisticated final outcomes. Students are able to draw inspiration from a range of cultures and art periods/styles, bringing together different disciplines. Students are encouraged to think outside the box, exploring the unknown, to enable them to create end products which have challenged them both technically and creatively.

Assessment:

Coursework 60%: Four terms, completed by mid January of the second year of the course.

Examination 40%: Eight weeks preparation time followed by a 10 hour examination.

ART & DESIGN: PHOTOGRAPHY

Examination Board and Specification:

WJEC Eduqas Art and Design: Photography

Head of Department:

Mr Paul Spurrett (pspurrett@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- Actively engage with the design process, using a range of photographic media and technique, showing understanding of the photographic processes and equipment
- Become confident in taking risks and learning from mistakes, when exploring and experimenting with ideas, materials, tools and techniques, using safe working practices.
- Develop cultural knowledge, understanding and application of photographic techniques, in historical and contemporary contexts
- Develop ideas, plan, produce and evaluate products
- Develop creative skills through learning to use imaginative and intuitive powers when exploring and creating outcomes which are original and individual.

General Description and Course Content:

Work should form a means of personal enquiry and expression involving the selection and manipulation of images. Students must employ creative approaches which go beyond mere observation and recording. They are encouraged to work with film and digital technologies. Work with black and white film and a manual camera forms the basis of the course. Students learn to use this camera, develop film, print using the negatives, and explore the addition of colour to black and white prints with Toning and Colorvir. Digital work is carried out alongside the darkroom work. We create digital negatives, print with these in the darkroom, use Photoshop to manipulate images and combine black and white with colour by scanning negatives. Students are encouraged to work in three dimensions, and move on from the flat image. Work can include: documentary, studio, and/or location photography, photo-journalism and experimental imagery.

All students must use drawing to support the development process within each chosen area of study. Students are not required to demonstrate technical mastery of drawing skills unless this is relevant to their area of study.

Film-based Photography: Students will be expected to develop knowledge and understanding of: the use of light in photography; film types and film speeds; viewpoint; composition; focus; shutter speed; exposure, and darkroom techniques. In addition, students will experiment with the image through computers, scanners and computer software and explore the work of artists and photographers as inspiration.

Digital Photography: Students will be expected to develop knowledge and understanding of the use of light; pixel and digital processing; viewpoint; composition; focus; shutter speed; exposure; the use and qualities of Photoshop; connections between **students' digital work and the work of others, linking to** their own work, and the use of a range of source material, software and hardware in the generation and development of ideas and final outcomes.

Materials required: Students will need a manual SLR film camera and a digital SLR. Due to the cost and unavoidable wastage, students have to buy their own photographic paper and film. We can acquire these items at reduced cost. Chemicals will be provided.

Assessment:

Coursework 60%: Four terms, completed by mid January of the second year of the course.

Examination 40%: Eight weeks preparation time followed by a 10 hour examination.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

Yes.





ART & DESIGN: TEXTILE DESIGN

Examination Board & Specification:

WJEC Eduqas Art & Design: Textile Design

Head of Department:

Mr Paul Spurrett (pspurrett@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to encourage students to:

- Actively engage with the process of art and design using textile media
- Become confident in taking risks and learning from mistakes, when exploring and experimenting with ideas, media and techniques
- Develop cultural knowledge, understanding and application of textile art techniques, in historical and contemporary contexts
- Develop ideas, plan, produce and evaluate products
- Develop creative skills through learning to use imaginative and intuitive powers when exploring and creating outcomes which are original and individual
- Understand the art, craft and design processes, associated equipment and safe working practices.

General Description and Course Content:

This course offers students the opportunity to explore their creative abilities through the medium of textiles. Students will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of media and techniques including: free-machinery, transfer printing, appliqué, reverse appliqué, silk printing, block printing, batik, dyeing, weaving, embellishing, felting, constructed textiles and heat-based processes. Students will also explore fashion design, including making their own commercial and experimental pattern-based garments.

Students will select a topic which is of personal significance to them, in discussion with art staff. They will be encouraged to explore a wide range of historical and contemporary textiles as well as study the functions of textiles products in the real world.

Students will also learn about the career opportunities available within the textiles industry, including: fashion design, textile design, theatrical costume design, fashion illustration, fashion forecasting, fashion journalism, millinery, footwear design, textile buying and colour consulting.

Assessment:

Coursework 60%: Four terms, completed by Easter of the second year of the course.

Examination 40%: Eight weeks preparation time followed by a 10 hour examination over two full days.

Expectations for independent study:

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a study visit to enrich their experiences, knowledge of artists and to gather first-hand research. In the past we have visited New York, Paris and Florence.

Students will also attend gallery and museum visits during their course and participate in a local screen-printing workshop, creating professional outcomes using their own designs.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

No, but it is strongly recommended as practical skills will not be as developed as those who do study at GCSE level.

BUSINESS

Examination Board & Specification:

Edexcel Business (1850)

Head of Department:

Mrs Diana Evans (devans@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to enable students to:

- Know and understand business concepts, business terminology, business objectives, the integrated nature of business activity and the impact of business on individuals and wider society
- Apply knowledge and understanding to contemporary business issues and to different types and sizes of businesses in local, national and global contexts
- Develop as enterprising individuals with the ability to think commercially and creatively to demonstrate business acumen, and draw on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems
- Develop as effective and independent students, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- Use an enquiring, critical approach to make informed judgements
- Investigate and analyse real business opportunities and issues to construct well-argued, well-evidenced, balanced and structured arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of business
- Develop and apply quantitative skills relevant to business, including using and interpreting data.

General Description and Course Content:

Theme 1: Investigating Small Business (Paper code: 1BS0/01)

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on business

Theme 2: Building a Business (Paper code: 1BS0/02)

- Growing the business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions
- Making human resource decisions

Assessment:

Theme 1: Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes. 50% of the qualification. The paper consists of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Questions in two sections are based on business contexts given in the paper.

Theme 2: Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes. 50% of the qualification. The paper consists of

calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Questions in two sections will be based on business contexts given in the paper.

Expectations for independent study:

In addition to homework and to support the curriculum, students are encouraged to follow relevant economic and business news stories online. Enriching learning through watching suggested business related television programmes as well as wider reading of selected business books and entrepreneur autobiographies is recommended.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

Whilst not essential, it is highly recommended.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Examination Board & Specification:

OCR Classical Civilisation (J199)

Head of Department:

Mr Marc Ives (mives@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

Give a broad classical education to students, who should be able to tackle historical, literary and philosophical concepts and be able to make comparisons between the ancient and the modern world. This is not nearly as difficult as it sounds, with the Colosseum a good forerunner of modern sporting stadia; the politics of Rome or Greece providing many parallels to the Houses of Parliament, and the literature of Ovid or Homer still being used as inspiration for many contemporary films, plays and books. (Think, *The Song of Achilles*, *Troy* or even *The Hunger Games*).

General Description and Course Content:

The course is split into two components, Myth and Religion (50%) and The Homeric World (50%). Students are expected to be able to write essays and answer context questions for both components.

Assessment:

Both components are assessed via a 90 minute examination.

Expectations for independent study:

There are so many books on the classical world that it is impossible to be prescriptive as to what students should read. The department is happy to advise and would certainly recommend that students spend some of their time reading classical material for fun. However, the best way to do this is to take a trip to a good bookshop and have a browse around the Classical section.

The Classics Department has always enjoyed bringing the ancient world to life. There is no better way to do this than to visit the ancient sites: Rome (2011), Greece (2012 & 2016), Sicily (2013), Pompeii (2014) and back to Sicily in 2018.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

No.



Sicily 2018

CLASSICAL GREEK

Examination Board and Specification:

OCR Greek (J292)

Head of Department:

Mr Marc Ives (mives@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

Enable students to feel confident in reading texts that were written over 2,500 years ago in their original form. Ultimately, the aim is to give students the opportunity to consider studying the subject for A level. However, it should also be something that is fun, not only because of the intellectual challenge, but due to the nature of the subject matter, which can encompass anything from the Trojan and Persian Wars to the legend of Odysseus returning home or the myths of Heracles. It should also be remembered that Greek is the ancient language that is, of all languages, most similar to its modern counter-part, and that approximately 25% of words in the English language have Greek derivatives; orchestra, chaos, atom, anaphylactic, paediatrician or theatre, just for starters.

General Description and Course Content:

Students are required to answer questions on original Classical Greek literature and to do pieces of unseen translation. The literature is studied from the end of Year 10 and the unseen translation is based on a vocabulary list which students are given at the start of Year 10.

Assessment:

There are three examinations: an unseen translation paper (mythology and history) worth 50% of GCSE and two set text papers worth 25% each. The set texts will be chosen from Herodotus, Plutarch, Homer and Euripides.

Expectations for independent study:

It is impossible to achieve a good grade in Greek without having a very disciplined approach to work. The vocabulary list can be tested in lessons, as can the set text, but the only way to learn either of these is by putting in the hours outside of lesson time. It should also be pointed out that Greek is intellectually demanding and should only be attempted by the brave.

The Classics Department has always enjoyed bringing the ancient world to life. There is no better way to do this than to visit the ancient sites: Rome (2011), Greece (2012 & 2016), Sicily (2013), Pompeii (2014) and back to Sicily in 2018.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

Yes.



Greece 2016: Epidaurus

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Examination Board & Specification:

AQA Computer Science (8152)

Head of Department:

Mr John Mannion (jmannion@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- **Develop the students' understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work**
- Apply this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts
- Acquire and apply knowledge, technical skills and understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming.

General Description and Course Content:

Students will use Python and Visual Basic to develop skills and good practice in programming. The emphasis will be on writing computer programs to solve problems in a structured manner. This will give students the necessary experience and skill level to complete a single, compulsory programming task known as a non-exam assessment (NEA).

Learning materials are posted on the school's VLE and electronic textbooks are downloaded by the individual students.

Assessment:

The course will call for students to undertake two written assessments, one theoretical and one involving

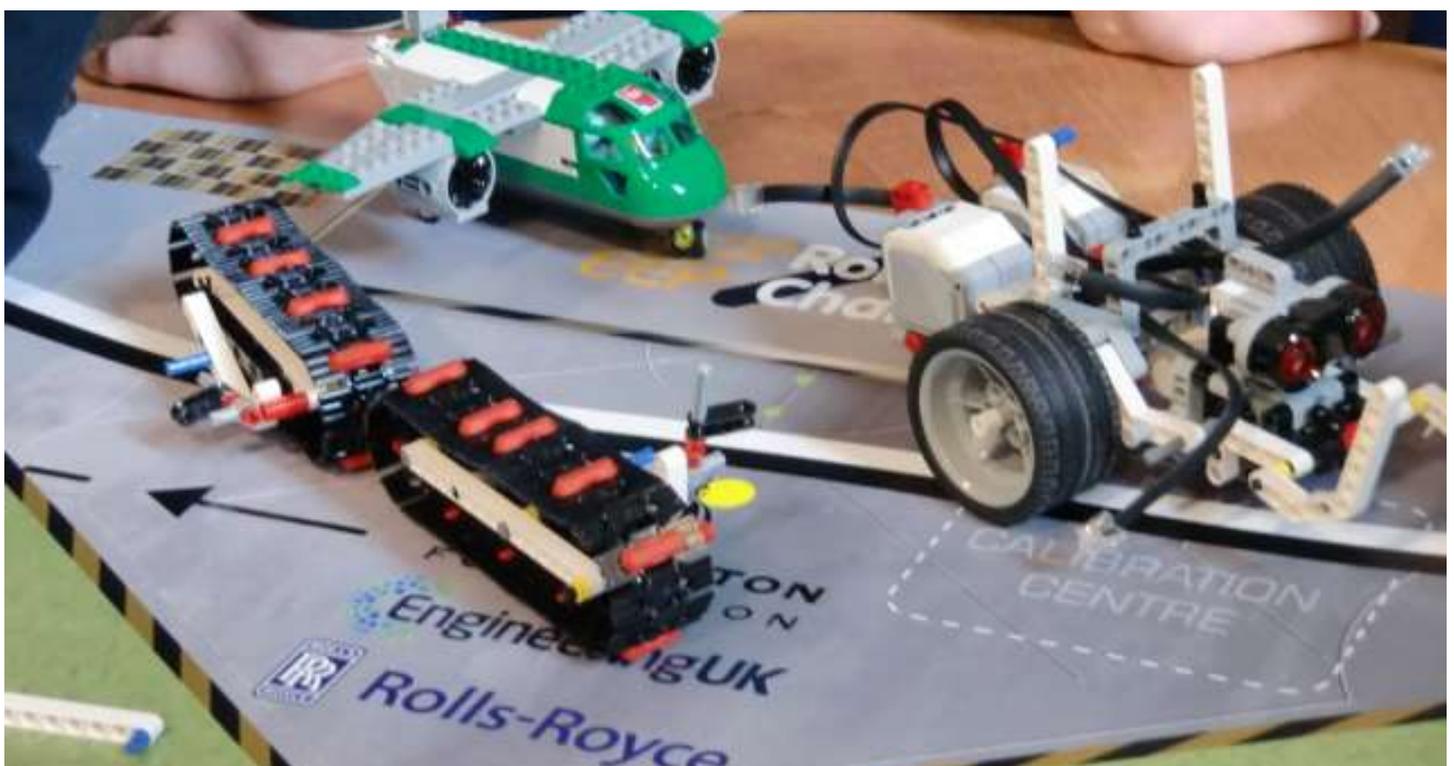
computational thinking. Each assessment lasts 90 minutes and counts for 40% of the marks available for the qualification. Both assessments are externally set and marked. Students have up to 20 hours to complete an NEA but this does not count towards their final qualification.

Expectations for independent study:

Students are encouraged to tackle a variety of programming tasks using Python and Visual Basic and are free to devise their own ideas and a variety of different solutions.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

Yes.



DANCE

Examination Board & Specification:

AQA GCSE Dance 8236

Head of Department:

Mrs Katie Hastings (khastings@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- Actively engage in the process of dance in order to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers
- Develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of a range of dance styles
- Develop physical, technical and expressive skills in order to communicate choreographic intention and develop as performers
- Develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of choreography in order to communicate ideas, thoughts and meaning drawn from a range of dance styles
- Develop a critical appreciation of dance in its physical, artistic, aesthetic and cultural contexts
- Develop knowledge and understanding of health, fitness and safe working practices relevant to performing and choreographing dances.

General Description and Course Content:

The course content includes dance as a part of a healthy lifestyle, safe practice in dance, dance techniques, the history of dance and choreographical skills. Students study a minimum of six short professional dance works.

Assessment:

Component 1: Performance and choreography

Performance:

- You will learn four set phrases and perform two as a solo (approximately 1 minute)
- Either as a duet or a trio, based on the set phrases (approximately 3–5 minutes)

Choreography:

- Either a solo or group choreography of between 2–3 minutes, choreographed in response to a range of stimuli chosen by the exam board
- The practical component is marked out of 80 and is worth 60% of the overall GCSE Grade

Component 2: Dance Appreciation

- Knowledge and appreciation of the choreographic processes and performing skills
- Critical appreciation of your own work
- Critical appreciation of six short professional dance works
- 40% of the overall GCSE grade and is assessed through a 90 minute written exam.

Expectations for independent study:

Students of dance will participate in dance clubs within and outside of school and are automatically enrolled as members of Angelis Dance Company.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

Yes.





A flower inspired table lamp designed, developed, manufactured and packaged in GCSE Product Design



This model kit for an F1 car was designed, developed, manufactured and packaged as part of a GCSE Product Design coursework project.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Examination Board & Specification:

AQA Design & Technology (8552)

Head of Department:

Mrs Jennifer Knott (jknott@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- Develop realistic design proposals as a result of the exploration of design opportunities and user's needs, wants and values
- Use imagination, experimentation and a combination of ideas when designing
- Develop the skills to critique and refine their own ideas whilst designing and making
- Communicate their design ideas and decisions using different media and techniques, as appropriate for different audiences at key points in their designing
- Develop decision making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing their own project work
- Develop a broad knowledge of materials, components and technologies and practical skills to develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes
- Be ambitious and open to explore and take risks in order to stretch the development of design proposals, avoiding clichéd or stereotypical responses
- Consider the costs, commercial viability and marketing of products
- Demonstrate safe working practices in design and technology
- Use key design and technology terminology including those related to: designing; innovation and communication; materials and technologies; making; manufacture and production; critiquing, values and ethics.

General Description and Course Content:

The following topics are taught through a variety of practical tasks and theory lessons: new and emerging technologies, energy storage and generation, modern and smart materials, mechanical devices, using and working with materials, stock forms, types and sizes, commercial manufacturing processes, quality control, selecting appropriate tools, equipment and processes, CAD/CAM, effective communication of design ideas, investigation, primary and secondary data, prototype development, selection of materials and components, tolerances, systems approach to designing, materials and their working properties, sources and origins of materials.

As part of the course, students are also offered the opportunity to visit the Design Museum and V&A Museum in London and also the Mini production plant to learn about the modern manufacturing systems.

Assessment:

The written examination (50% of total marks) comprises three sections:

Section A: Core technical principles

Section B: Specialist technical principles

Section C: Designing and making principles

The non-exam assessment (50% of total marks and approximately 30-35 hours). A single design and make project selected from a range of contextual challenges set by the examination board. Students are required to demonstrate the design process through the production of a portfolio of design work consisting of research, design idea generation, modelling, testing, development of a solution, making of the final product and testing and evaluation.

Expectations for independent study:

Students will be required to undertake independent research as a basis for the controlled assessment and in preparation for the written examination. It would also be beneficial if students kept abreast of future developments in technology and design.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

Yes, studying this course at GCSE level is advisable as it will set the student up with the majority of the skills and knowledge needed to progress onto the A level course with competency.



DRAMA

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA Drama (8261)

Head of Department:

Mrs Ruth Chaplin (rchaplin@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- Encourage candidates to actively engage in the process of dramatic study in order to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- Encourage students to work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating, developing and communicating ideas
- Give students the opportunity to reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others
- Develop and demonstrate competence in a range of practical, creative and performance skills
- Develop a basis for the students future role as active citizens in employment and society in general, as well as for the possible further study of drama
- Consider and explore the impact of social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities.

General Description and Course Content:

People often assume that GCSE Drama is a course for aspiring actors, but the skills developed are much more far-reaching. It is widely recognised that Drama can make an enormous contribution to personal **development. Today's employers are looking for** mature, confident, creative people who can communicate effectively and work as part of a team - precisely the qualities and skills that Drama develops. GCSE Drama is practical, rewarding and fun!

The course gives students the opportunity to understand different points of view, to form their own opinions, to listen purposefully and to develop their language and communication skills. They are also given responsibility for planning and research and will experience working to a real deadline - the arrival of an audience. In addition, GCSE Drama develops performance techniques and gives students an understanding and appreciation of drama as an art form and of its place in our culture.

Guidance is also provided on the theatrical skills students will need to work on. In the practical components, students may specialise in performing, lighting, sound, set, costume and/or puppets.

Assessment:

Component 1: Understanding Drama (Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes. Open book. 40% of GCSE).

What is assessed? 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 (Practical. Marked by teachers and moderated by AQA. 40% of GCSE).

What is assessed? Process of creating devised drama; Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer); Analysis and evaluation of own work.

Component 3: Texts in Practice (Practical. Marked by AQA. 20% of GCSE).

What is assessed? Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer). Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1.

Expectations for independent study:

Candidates should take an interest in theatre and performance, and see as much professional theatre as possible.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

No.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE*

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA English (8700)

Head of Department:

Ms Sally Hall (shall@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to develop students' ability to:

- Read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding
- Read critically, and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- Use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language.

General Description and Course Content:

English Language is taught in conjunction with English Literature. All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11, with two papers for Language that focus on either fiction or non-fiction.

Assessment:

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes. 50% of GCSE

Section A: Reading: One literature fiction text. One short, two longer and one extended comprehension question. 40 marks (25%)

Section B: Writing: Descriptive or narrative writing. One extended writing question. 40 marks (25%)

Paper2: Writers' Viewpoints & Perspectives

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes. 50% of GCSE

Section A: Reading: One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text, which are linked by theme. One short, two longer and one extended comprehension question. 40 marks (25%)

Section B: Writing: Writing to present a viewpoint. One extended writing question. 40 marks (25%)

Expectations for independent study:

Students should ensure they read good quality newspapers and non-fiction texts, such as autobiographies, as well as quality fiction.

Is GCSE required in order to study English at A level?

Yes.



ENGLISH LITERATURE*

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA English Literature (8702)

Head of Department:

Ms Sally Hall (shall@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to develop students' ability to:

- Read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, and make connections across their reading
- Read in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas
- Appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage
- Write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English
- Acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including the grammatical terminology and other literary and linguistic terms they need to criticise and analyse what they read.

General Description and Course Content:

English Literature is taught in conjunction with English Language. All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11, with two papers for Literature that cover the three genres of poetry, drama and prose.

Assessment:

All assessments are closed book: any stimulus material required will be provided as part of the assessment.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-Century novel

Written examination: 1 ¾ hours. 40% of GCSE

Section A: Shakespeare. Students will answer one question on their set play, currently *Romeo & Juliet*. They will write in detail about an extract and then about the play as a whole.

Section B: The 19th Century novel. Students will answer one question on their set novel, currently *Pride and Prejudice* or *A Christmas Carol*. They will write in detail about an extract and then about the text as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

Written examination: 2 ¼ hours. 60% of GCSE

Section A: Modern Texts: One essay question on set modern text, currently *An Inspector Calls*.

Section B: Poetry: One comparative question on two poems from the set anthology.

Section C: Unseen Poetry: One question on an unseen poem and one question comparing unseen poems.

Expectations for independent study:

Students should be prepared to read around the contexts of the texts being studied as well as reading good quality fiction to support their interpretations of text.

Is GCSE required in order to study English at A level?

Yes.



FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

Examination Board and Specification:
AQA Food Preparation & Nutrition (8585)

Head of Department:
Mrs Jennifer Knott (jknott@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking using a variety of food commodities, cooking techniques and equipment
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical processes as well as the nutritional content of food and drinks
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- Understand the economic, environmental, ethical, and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, and diet and health choices
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- Understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international), to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.

General Description and Course Content:

This new Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE is an exciting and creative course, which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core

topics: Food, nutrition and health, Food science, Food safety, Food choice and Food provenance

Assessment:

Written examination: 50% of GCSE. Comprises of two sections that test theoretical knowledge of the specification subject content:

Section A: Multiple-choice questions structured to reflect the sections of the specification.

Section B: contains five questions varying in styles of approach and content.

Non Examination Assessment: 50% of GCSE. Students will undertake one food investigation report and one food preparation assessment.

Food investigation (15%). Students write a report (1,500 - 2,000 words) on their understanding of the scientific principles that underpin the preparation and cooking of food.

Food preparation assessment (written, electronic portfolio) (35%). Students will plan, prepare, cook and present a three-course menu within 3 hours.

Expectations for independent study:

In addition to homework, students are encouraged to keep abreast of relevant news around food production, technology and nutrition. Students should be encouraged to cook regularly at home to further develop their practical skills.

Materials required:

Students are required to bring in ingredients and suitable containers for the dishes they cook. Basic store cupboard ingredients (e.g. oil, salt, pepper) are provided.

Opportunities for further study in sixth form:

The skills developed over the two years will prove useful for those students wishing to take the Leiths Introductory certificate in Food and Wine.



FRENCH

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA French 8658

Head of Department:

Miss Sarah Ferretti (sferretti@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- Develop language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) in a variety of contexts
- To build on the KS3 study and prepare students for further study at A level.

General Description and Course Content:

The course content consists of three themes, each covering four topics:

- Theme 1: Identity & Culture
Me, my family & friends; technology in everyday life; free-time activities, and customs & festivals in French-speaking countries/communities.
- Theme 2: Local, National, International & Global Areas of Interest
Home, town, neighbourhood & region; social issues; global issues, and travel & tourism.
- Theme 3: Current & Future Study & Employment
My studies; life at school/college; education post-16, and jobs, career choices and ambitions.

Assessment:

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers are externally assessed.

Paper 1: Listening. Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier). 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier). 25% of **GCSE. Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time** of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.

Paper 2: Speaking. Non-exam assessment. 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time. 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time. 60 marks for both Foundation Tier and Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.

Paper 3: Reading. Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier). 60 marks for both Foundation Tier and Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.

Paper 4: Writing. Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier). 50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.

Expectations for independent study:

Students are expected to learn vocabulary on a weekly basis. It is important to practise the new language acquired in lessons regularly throughout the week. Resources and links to recommended websites are available on the VLE, which will help students consolidate listening and reading skills and acquire and practise grammar. GCSE clinics run in extra-curricular time and students are also supported by the Modern Foreign Language assistants.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

Yes.



GEOGRAPHY

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA Geography

Head of Department:

Mrs Rebecca Harvey (rharvey@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

The AQA specification allows the development of a variety of skills, including literacy and numeracy, communication, graphical and cartographical skills, technological skills, including ICT and GIS, interpersonal skills through debate and discussion, problem-solving skills and independent learning. These skills are highly transferable and help to keep options open for A level study, university and beyond.

General Description and Course Content:

With the rapid growth of the world's population, and an increasing awareness of the strains this puts on our planet, we need a greater understanding of our world. Geography encourages us to explore the interactions between humans and the physical landscape, and examines the ways in which we are affecting the future of planet earth. By examining case studies and examples on both global and local scales geographers endeavour to find a sustainable solution – to improve **people's standard of living, but at the same time** ensuring the safe development of the planet for future generations.

Course content:

Living with the physical environment

- The challenge of natural hazards
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- The living world

Challenges in the human environment

- Urban issues & challenges
- Changing economic world
- Challenge of resource management

Fieldwork

Fieldwork is an integral part of the Geography GCSE course. Students will participate in two days of fieldwork, one investigating human geography and one physical geography. This is then examined in Paper 3.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (90 minutes) 35% of GCSE

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment (90 minutes) 35% of GCSE

Paper 3: Geographical applications (75 minutes) 30% of GCSE

Expectations for independent study:

Students will be issued with a reading list with a breadth of content, to encourage them to look beyond the topics covered and understand the variety of geography. They will also be expected to keep up-to-date with current geographical issues in the media. Girls will be encouraged to research any topics that interest them beyond the specification.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

No, but preferred.



Geography GCSE Fieldwork in Dorset

HISTORY

Examination Board and Specification:
Edexcel Modern World History (1HI0)

Head of Department:
Mrs Jennifer Shillaw (jshillaw@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

By the end of the course, you will be able to research independently, summarise effectively and write clearly. You will be able to weigh up evidence and think analytically. You will also have a good understanding of some big historical themes including: how war changed over time, how monarchies operated, how dictatorships were established and maintained, how countries fell out with one another - and were able to repair relations. Above all, you will have a better **understanding of the world around you... making you a more informed and interesting person!**

General Description and Course Content:

There are three units:

Paper 1: Medicine Through Time, c1250 - Present. Key periods include medieval England, the medical Renaissance period, medicine c1700-1900 and medicine in modern Britain. The topics cover ideas about the causes of disease and illness as well as methods of prevention and treatment.

Paper 2: The Cold War 1945-90, Henry VIII and his

Ministers 1509-40. The first part of the paper covers the superpower rivalry between the USA and Russia between 1945 and 1990. Topics include the origins of the Cold War, the Hungarian Uprising, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The second part of the paper covers the political and religious upheaval that took place in the reign of Henry VIII. Topics include the rise and fall of Wolsey, Anne Boleyn and Thomas Cromwell.

Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39. The rise of the Nazis and the nature of Nazi rule. Topics include the police state, propaganda, the indoctrination of children and the treatment of German Jews.

Assessment:

Assessment: All of the units test historical knowledge and writing skills. In addition, Paper 1 tests source **skills** and **Paper 3 tests the student's ability to evaluate** the arguments of historians.

Expectations for independent study:

Wider reading (a list will be issued to students at the beginning of the course); learning key terms, names, dates and vocabulary for regular tests.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

No, but preferred.



GCSE & A level students at the Menin Gate

ITALIAN

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA Italian 8633

Head of Department:

Miss Sarah Ferretti (sferretti@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- Develop language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) in a variety of contexts
- To build on the KS3 study and prepare students for further study at A level.

General Description and Course Content:

The course content consists of three themes, each covering four topics:

Theme 1: Identity & Culture. Me, my family & friends; technology in everyday life; free-time activities, and customs & festivals in Italian-speaking countries/communities

Theme 2: Local, National, International & Global Areas of Interest. Home, town, neighbourhood & region; social issues; global issues, and travel & tourism

Theme 3: Current & Future Study & Employment. My studies; life at school/college; education post-16, and jobs, career choices and ambitions.

Assessment:

GCSE Italian has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers are externally assessed.

Paper 1: Listening. Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier). 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier). 25% of GCSE. **Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.**

Paper 2: Speaking. Non-exam assessment. 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time. 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time. 60 marks for both Foundation Tier and Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.

Paper 3: Reading. Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier). 60 marks for both Foundation Tier and Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.
Paper 4: Writing. Written exam. 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier). 50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.

Expectations for independent study:

Students are expected to learn vocabulary on a weekly basis. It is important to practise the new language acquired in lessons regularly throughout the week. Resources and links to recommended websites are available on the VLE, which will help students to consolidate their listening and reading skills and acquire and practise grammar. GCSE clinics run in extra-curricular time and students are also supported by the Modern Foreign Language assistants.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

Yes.



LATIN

Examination Board and Specification:

OCR Latin (J282)

Head of Department:

Mr Marc Ives (mives@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

The aims of the course are varied according to one's perception as to the value of education. If one wants the straight down the line academic benefits, these include an ability to problem solve, a greater understanding of English grammar, an improved comprehension of the Romance languages, the skills to be able to read original texts (unadulterated: Latin and Greek are the only languages at GCSE that require students to answer questions on the language in its original literary form), and many other things. However, learning is valuable simply for itself, and Latin aims to foster this belief that every society needs a strong and erudite cultural foundation.

General Description and Course Content:

Students are required to answer questions on original Latin literature and to do pieces of unseen translation. The literature is studied from the end of Year 10 and the unseen translation is based on a vocabulary list which students are given at the start of Year 10.

Assessment:

There are three examinations: one unseen translation paper (mythology and history) worth 50% of GCSE and two set text papers worth 25% each. The set texts will be chosen from Caesar, Martial and Virgil.

Expectations for independent study:

It is impossible to achieve a good grade in Latin without having a very disciplined approach to work. The vocabulary list can be tested in lessons, as can the set text, but the only way to learn either of these is by putting in the hours outside of lesson time. The Classics Department has always enjoyed bringing the ancient world to life. There is no better way to do this than to visit the ancient sites: Rome (2011), Greece (2012), Sicily (2013), Pompeii (2014) and back to Greece in 2016.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

Yes.



Sicily 2013: Year 10 at the Temple of Segesta

MANDARIN CHINESE

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA Chinese (Spoken Mandarin) 8673

Head of Department:

Miss Sarah Ferretti (sferretti@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- Develop language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) in a variety of contexts
- To build on the KS3 study and prepare students for further study at Pre-U level.

General Description and Course Content:

The course content consists of three themes, each covering four topics:

Theme 1: Identity & Culture

Me, my family & friends; technology in everyday life; free-time activities, and customs & festivals in Chinese-speaking countries/communities.

Theme 2: Local, National, International & Global Areas of Interest

Home, town, neighbourhood & region; social issues; global issues, and travel & tourism.

Theme 3: Current & Future Study & Employment

My studies; life at school/college; education post-16, and jobs, career choices and ambitions.

Assessment:

GCSE Chinese (Spoken Mandarin) has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series and will be externally assessed.

Paper 1: Listening. Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier). 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier). 25% of **GCSE**. **Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time** of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.

Paper 2: Speaking. Non-exam assessment. 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time. 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time. 60 marks for both Foundation Tier and Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.

Paper 3: Reading. Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier). 60 marks for both Foundation Tier and Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.

Paper 4: Writing. Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier). 50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.

Expectations for independent study:

Students are expected to learn vocabulary on a weekly basis. It is important to practise the new language acquired in lessons regularly throughout the week. Resources and links to recommended websites are available on the VLE, which will help students consolidate listening and reading skills and acquire and practise grammar. GCSE clinics run in extra-curricular time and students are also supported by the Modern Foreign Language assistants.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at Pre-U level?

Yes.



MATHEMATICS*

Examination Board and Specification:
Edexcel Linear Specification (9-1) 1MA1

Head of Department:
Mrs Sue Sim (ssim@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course:

The Mathematics course is designed to help students emerge from GCSE Maths with a level of confidence and fluency that will provide a genuine foundation for the rest of their learning and working lives.

General Description and Course Content:

At GCSE, Mathematics is taught in sets according to ability and aptitude and every student is encouraged to succeed at whatever level is appropriate for her. The volume and demand of the subject content has increased with harder topics introduced at both Foundation and Higher tier. A new grading structure from 9 to 1 replaces the familiar A* to G. In assessments there is a greater emphasis on problem solving and mathematical reasoning with more marks allocated to these higher-order skills. Girls will be required to memorise formulae as fewer will be provided in examinations.

For course details: qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html.

Assessment:

This course is assessed by examination only - no coursework is required.

The examination consist of three written papers of 90 minutes each. The first paper is non- calculator; the other two papers permit calculator use.

There are two overlapping tiers of entry as follows:

TIER	TARGET GRADES
Higher	9 8 7 6 5 A* A B C
Foundation	5 4 3 2 1 B/C - G

We expect most girls to be entered at the Higher Tier.

Girls in Set 1 may study topics from the AQA Further Mathematics GCSE. They sit the GCSE in Year 11.

Expectations for independent study:

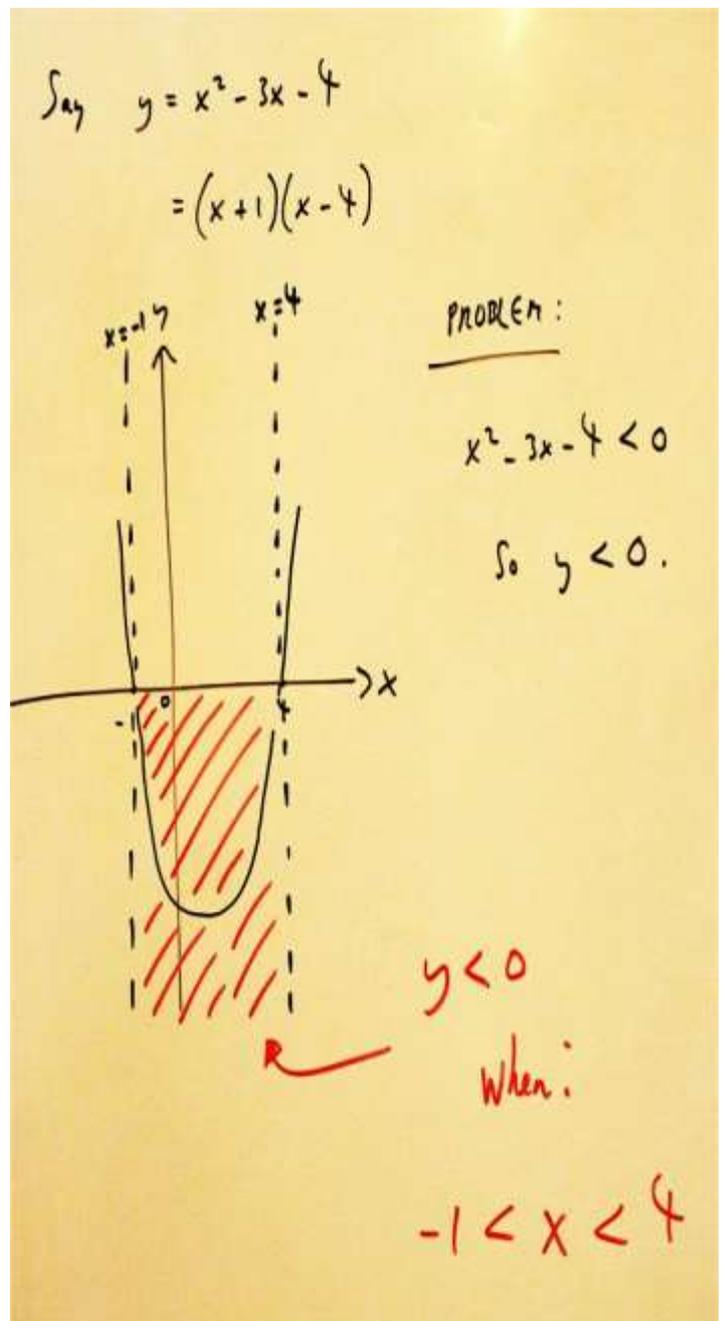
As well as two homework assignments each week, girls

are expected to use the MyMaths website for extra practice of any topics they find more difficult.

A reading list and suggested websites for further study of areas of particular interest is provided at the start of the course.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

Yes.



MATHEMATICS (FURTHER)

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA Further Mathematics 8365

Head of Department:

Mrs Sue Sim (ssim@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course:

The AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics is designed to stretch and challenge high achieving mathematicians. It is the equivalent to a full GCSE course, but it does not cover the full Key Stage 4 (KS4) programme of study, which still must be covered.

This qualification is graded on a scale of 5–9 and is ideal for adding additional stretching content into the KS4 teaching programme, with a view to taking GCSE and the Level 2 Certificate at the end of Year 11.

General Description and Course Content:

Further Mathematics complements GCSE Mathematics by encouraging students' higher mathematical skills, particularly algebraic reasoning, but does not infringe upon A level Mathematics. Students who have GCSE Mathematics and AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics can move onto the deeper material of A level Mathematics and sciences knowing they will be fully stretched and challenged.

The AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics places an emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem-solving skills. It gives high achieving students an introduction to A level topics that will help them to develop skills in: Algebra, Geometry, Calculus, Matrices, Trigonometry, Functions and Graphs.

Assessment:

Assessment is linear:

Paper 1: Written paper (non-calculator) carries 50% of marks

Paper 2: Written paper (calculator) carries 50% of marks

This qualification is suitable for students who already have, or are expected to get, a grade 7 – 9 in GCSE Mathematics and who are likely to progress to A level study in Mathematics and possibly Further Mathematics.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

No, but you will need Maths GCSE.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (-1)(1) + (3)(0) & \\ & \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & (1)(4) + (0)(5) & \\ & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 & \\ (-3)(-1) + (2)(3) & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 & \\ 9 & (-3)(4) + (2)(5) & \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Final Answer: } \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 \\ 9 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

MUSIC

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA Music (8271)

Head of Department:

Dr Philip Tebbs (ptebbs@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course:

To give a broad, lively and accessible introduction to the study of music, allowing students to explore a wide range of musical styles, including classical, world, rock, pop and jazz. The course also aims to allow students to develop and demonstrate their performing skills, and their creativity as composers. We use Sibelius music software to notate compositions, which allows students quickly to get their ideas on to paper, and to be able to hear them so they can refine and develop them.

General Description and Course Content:

A CD-based one and a half hour written paper, testing **students' listening skills and ability to place music in its historical context**; two compositions and two performances (one solo and one ensemble). The composing and performing are both done during lesson time over the course of the GCSE. Performers are expected to be at least Grade IV standard by the end of the course.

Assessment:

Written paper (40% of the total marks) - marked by external examiner, performing (30% of the total marks) and composing (30% of the total marks) internally marked and externally moderated.

Expectations for independent study:

Performing and composing both demand extra input. GCSE candidates will need to be learning their instrument/voice actively, either in school or with an outside teacher, and practising regularly every day. We also expect that all GCSE musicians will be members of at least one group within the school (either instrumental or singing - there are many to choose from). It is also usual for students to be spending some extra time on composing and listening tasks outside the classroom, or coming into the department to work on their compositions during free time. It is desirable, although not essential, for students to have music theory knowledge around Grade V, and most candidates attend extra theory classes at some point during the GCSE course.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

Not essential, if performing/theory skills are sufficiently high.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA Physical Education (8582)

Head of Department:

Mrs Alison Pasternakiewicz (apasty@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course:

This qualification is linear with students sitting all their exams and submitting all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course. GCSE Physical Education is comprised of both practical and theoretical elements. The course is 60% theory and 40% practical and is designed to show that candidates are able to plan, perform and evaluate physical activities by demonstrating their knowledge, skills and understanding of a range of physical activities.

General Description and Course Content:

The theoretical side of the course looks at applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data, sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and wellbeing.

Assessment:

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport (30% of GCSE)

Written exam: 1¼ hours. A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions. Areas examined: applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training and use of data.

Paper 2: Socio-cultural and well-being in physical activity and sport (30% of GCSE)

Written exam: 1¼ hours. A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions. Areas examined: sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and wellbeing and use of data.

Practical: Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity). For each of their three activities, students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in the full context (15 marks per activity). 30% of GCSE.

Coursework: Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity. Assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA, students will be assessed on their analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity. 10% of GCSE.

Expectations for independent study:

Use the media to learn about current affairs related to sport, health and fitness. Research National Governing Bodies via their websites. Extra curricular involvement in sporting clubs and teams in and out of school.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

No, but preferred.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES: PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA Religious Studies Spec A (8062)

Head of Department:

Mrs Hannah Trevis (htrevis@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- Encourage students to reflect upon ultimate questions about the meaning and purpose of life
- Encourage students to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of religion by exploring the significance and impact of certain beliefs and practices
- Understand the diversity of viewpoints that may exist about a range of ethical dilemmas.

General Description and Course Content:

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious and philosophical issues.

Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, as well as leadership and research skills.

Component 1: The Study of Religions: Beliefs, Teachings & Practices. Christianity and Buddhism.

Component 2: Thematic Studies. Four philosophical and ethical themes:

- Relationships & families – contraception, marriage, divorce and fertility treatments
- Religion and life – abortion, euthanasia, value of the physical world and origins of the universe
- The existence of God and revelation – philosophical arguments for the existence of God
- Religion, crime and punishment – treatment of prisoners, prison, corporal punishment and the death penalty.

Assessment:

Two examinations lasting 1¾ hours each, at the end of Year 11. Internal assessment takes the form of end of topic tests and end of unit questions, which are either completed in lesson time or during the holidays throughout Years 9 – 11.

Expectations for independent study:

Students should keep up-to-date with current affairs by reading a newspaper or watching the news regularly. Attendance at extra-curricular activities, such as Philosophy and Debating Clubs, will develop thinking and evaluative skills.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

No.



Examination Board and Specification:

AQA Combined Science Trilogy (Double Award) (8464) or GCSE Biology (8461), GCSE Chemistry (8462) and GCSE Physics (8463)

Head of Department:

Miss Jessica Hammett (jhammett@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

To provide a coherent, relevant and engaging science qualification with opportunities for progression and preparation for A level.

General Description and Course Content:

In Year 9, all girls follow Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects, introducing elements of GCSE courses. In Year 10 and Year 11, all girls will study Science as a core subject by either completing the Trilogy qualification or the Separate Science route. The over-arching topics studied are the same for both courses (see below) but girls taking the Separate Science route will cover more content in the same time allocation as those studying Trilogy. The Science Department will recommend the best route through for your daughter after testing in the first term of Year 10.

Biology: cell biology, organisation, infection & response, bioenergetics, homeostasis & response, inheritance, variation & evolution and ecology.

Chemistry: atomic structure & the periodic table, bonding, structure & the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate & extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.

Physics: forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism & electromagnetism, particle model of matter, atomic structure and space physics.

Assessment:

The Trilogy course provides Higher Tier and Foundation papers to suit candidates of all abilities. The A* - G grades have been replaced with a 9-1 award for Biology, Chemistry and Physics and a grading scale from 9-9, 9-8 through to 1-1 for Trilogy (Double Award).

Trilogy will be examined by six 1 ¼ hour papers: two biology, two chemistry and two Physics. Each examination will be weighted equally (16.7% of the grade) and will contain multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response questions.

There is no controlled assessment (coursework) but students will be required to complete a set number of experiments and investigations which will be examined in each paper.

Separate Sciences will each have two examination papers in each subject (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) designed to assess knowledge and understanding from different topics within each separate subject. Each paper will last 1¾ hours and be weighted equally (50% of the final grade). Questions will contain multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response questions.

Expectations for independent study:

Students are required to actively participate and become engaged with their course. They can use their Kerboodle log in to access resources and checklists for each topic and as a valuable revision guide. Students will be encouraged to watch documentaries and to research and extend their knowledge base. Separate Science students will be expected to show independence and motivation in their approach to new topics, home-reading and revision skills.

Is GCSE required in order to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics at A level?

Yes. Both Trilogy Higher Level and Separate Science are an excellent basis for embarking on the A level course of study and we encourage active dialogue with staff in A level Science choices.



SPANISH

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA Spanish 8698

Head of Department:

Miss Sarah Ferretti (sferretti@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- Develop language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) in a variety of contexts
- To build on the KS3 study and prepare students for further study at A level.

General Description and Course Content:

The course content consists of three themes, each covering four topics:

Theme 1: Identity & Culture. Me, my family & friends; technology in everyday life; free-time activities, and customs & festivals in Spanish-speaking countries/communities

Theme 2: Local, National, International & Global Areas of Interest. Home, town, neighbourhood & region; social issues; Global issues, and travel & tourism

Theme 3: Current & Future Study & Employment. My studies; life at school/college; education post-16, and jobs, career choices and ambitions.

Assessment:

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four

question papers at the same tier. All question papers are externally assessed.

Paper 1: Listening. Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier). 25% of **GCSE. Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time** of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.

Paper 2: Speaking. Non-exam assessment. 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time. 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time. 25% of GCSE.

Paper 3: Reading. Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 60 minutes (Higher Tier). 25% of GCSE.

Paper 4: Writing. Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 75 minutes (Higher Tier). 25% of GCSE.

Expectations for independent study:

Students are expected to learn vocabulary on a weekly basis. It is important to practise the new language acquired in lessons regularly throughout the week. Resources and links to recommended websites are available on the VLE, which will help students consolidate their listening and reading skills and acquire and practise grammar. GCSE clinics run in extra-curricular time and students are also supported by the Modern Foreign Language assistants.

Is GCSE required in order to study this subject at A level?

Yes.



ENRICHMENT

Personal, Social & Health Education, Citizenship & Key Skills.

All students in Year 10 and Year 11 continue to receive PSHE lessons which are delivered primarily by their form tutor during periods 1 and 2 on Monday mornings. Among the subject areas covered are money management, study skills, careers and wellbeing. Citizenship, at local, national and international level, is included in the programme. The Year 9 community link visit, where each form is required to organise and run an activity for members of the local community, is continued in to Year 10.

In addition to sessions delivered by the form tutor, the Head of Upper School, the Emotional Health Academy and specialist speakers talk to the girls about issues such as mental and sexual health, drugs awareness and the court system. The school also works with Elevate Education to deliver sessions on revision and examination technique.

Careers education forms a large part of the PSHE programme during Year 10 and Year 11. All pupils in Year 11 undertake Morrisby testing and receive 1:1 feedback on possible education and career choices. The school subscribes to Unifrog, a careers platform that allows students to explore every university course, apprenticeship and college course in the UK plus other global opportunities such as European and US undergraduate courses.

Physical Education

The school recognises that competitive games encourage teamwork, commitment, competitiveness and co-operation. Through a variety of activities both in and out of curriculum time, students develop these skills which, in turn, we believe lead to increased self-confidence. When the whole year group is being taught together, differentiation may take place in some lessons – students may be taught in forms or ability groups when it is appropriate.

Students take part in hockey, netball, gymnastics, dance, cross country, athletics, swimming, tennis, badminton and volleyball. There is a strong inter-school fixtures list and many students enjoy playing for school teams in hockey, netball, cross country, tennis and athletics. A good proportion of students compete at regional level in a variety of sports and some have progressed to national level.

Taking part is as important as winning. As well as fostering a competitive ethos, the PE Department encourages mass participation and the House system allows those who do not play in school teams to play in competitive situations. As the school has grown, additional second team matches have been included in the fixtures list, allowing more students to be part of a team and take pride in representing their school.

In Year 11, students go to the Nuffield Fitness & Wellbeing Gym for one of their curriculum PE lessons. This continues through in to Year 12 and Year 13, when students are taken every Thursday afternoon for personal fitness and spinning classes.

The physical education curriculum covers a broad range of activities, both competitive and non competitive, to cater for all ranges of ability and interest. The **department's philosophy is to develop every student to their full potential.**

Private Study

The purpose of private study is to help students to develop the skill of working independently. This time should be used to read around their subjects and to consolidate their learning. Students take responsibility for managing their own time, however, guidance is available from a member of staff, if needed. The periods are supervised but it is possible for students to use resource areas, such as the ICT Suite and the Library.



ENRICHMENT

Preparing for life in the Sixth Form

To help decide A level options, Year 10 and Year 11 girls have the opportunity to have a taster day in the Sixth Form and each student meets with Mrs Reseigh, Head of Sixth Form, to discuss post-16 options.

Australia Exchange

Girls may apply for a place on the Australian Exchange programme, the source of new cultural experiences and many lifelong friendships. The exchange takes place during Year 10.

The exchange links St Gabriel's with St Hilda's on the Gold Coast; the Australian students spend six weeks during the Autumn Term at St Gabriel's and our girls stay with their host family in Australia the following summer.

The benefits of taking part are considerable offering an opportunity for personal growth that goes well beyond the classroom.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is about developing young people's skills for life and work. In

addition to literacy and numeracy skills, the UK Commission for Employment and Skills and the CBI define the skills and attitude that make someone employable as: self-management, problem solving, team working and communication. All of these skills **are developed during the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. A 'can do' approach underpins success in** working life by helping you to be resilient and adapt to changing situations around you. An independent survey of major employers rated the DofE as the most important extra-curricular activity young people could do at school, even above work experience. (www.DofE.org/go/impact)

St Gabriel's offers students aged 14+ the opportunity to undertake the Bronze level award. Girls will achieve their award by completing a personal programme of activities in four sections; volunteering, physical, skills and expedition. Students must do a minimum of three months activity for each of the volunteering, physical and skills sections, and plan, prepare and undertake a two day (1 night) expedition. Students also have to spend an extra three months on one of the volunteering, physical or skills sections.

For further details on the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, visit www.dofe.org or contact Mr Lewis for more information.



Student Investor Challenge

All students in Year 10 and above have the opportunity to take part in the Student Investor Challenge. This competition introduces students to the concept of shares and the UK stock market. In teams of four, students invest their virtual money in a set of stocks in two portfolios:

- The Active Investor Portfolio which allows teams to trade every day.
- The Strategic Investor Portfolio which only allows a limited number of trades per month, encouraging long term thinking.

Teams have a virtual £100,000 to invest in each portfolio using data closely mirroring the FTSE. Teams are required to invest the full amount of cash they have, as teams keeping more than £15,000 in cash in either portfolio will be subject to a daily Windfall Tax. Once registered, teams can access a whole host of extra information on the Student Investor website to help them make good investment decisions. The live competition runs from October to the end of January with the top teams in the country going forward to subsequent rounds of the competition.

Advice

Consider the Issues:

Which subjects do I have to take?
How many subjects am I able to choose?

Gather Information

Do I know the content of all subjects?
Are there any completely new subjects?
What methods of study are required?

Ask for Advice

Consult parents, subject teachers, careers teachers/ advisers and people in possible career area.
Ask whether choice suits possible career area.

Look at the Alternatives

Would other choices suit my career choice better?
Am I making choices that will allow me to change my mind?
Are my choices making a balanced programme?
Could I do certain subjects outside examinations?

Decide & Evaluate

Are these choices my own personal decision?
Do these suit my learning style?
What strengths and skills do I have for various subjects?
Am I happy with my choices, or do I have any questions that still need answering?

If I decide to change my choices after 8 February, I must let Mrs Chicken know immediately.

