

ST GABRIEL'S
NEWBURY

GCSE Courses & Curriculum

2026-2028

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.

Ricki Smith, Principal

I look forward to guiding you through the GCSE options process as you begin to look into your subject choices and 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 be the opportunity for you to consider subjects that you have not previously 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 nine GCSEs; five core subjects (* in the subject pages), a Modern Foreign Language and three option subjects. You will also have Physical Education lessons which are non-examined and a supervised study period once a week. All GCSE examinations will be assessed at the end of Year 11.

When there are a small number of pupils 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.

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. PSHE incorporates comprehensive careers education and guidance, which is reinforced by Morrisby testing and Unifrog.

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, 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, Deputy Head, Academic



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.

When choosing your options make sure you have 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 to Mrs Chicken or myself.

Jenny Shillaw, Head of Upper School

Key Dates

20 January: GCSE Options Evening

PSHE sessions during the first half of the Spring Term will guide pupils through the decision-making process.

10 February: Year 9 Parents' Evening (Online)

An opportunity for further discussion about option choices with subject teachers.

12 February: Deadline for the return of the GCSE option choices form to tutors. Pupils should indicate their first choice option subjects.

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

Pupils wishing to change their choices after 12 February should contact Mrs Chicken, Deputy Head, Academic, immediately.



KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

What Do I Choose?

- The core subjects are compulsory: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science
- A Modern Foreign Language is also compulsory (French or Spanish)
- Choose four further subjects from the list opposite and we will confirm which three you will study in the Summer Term.

GCSE Option Subjects

- Art & Design: Fine Art
- Art & Design: Photography
- Art & Design: Textile Design
- Business
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics
- Spanish

Staff Contact Details

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(Year 9S)

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(Year 9G)





GCSE COURSES



ART & DESIGN: FINE ART

Examination Board & Specification:

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

Head of Department:

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

Aims of the course are 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.

General Description and Course Content:

Pupils 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 pupils 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. Pupils are able to draw inspiration from a range of cultures and art periods/styles, bringing together different disciplines. Pupils 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 end of Christmas holidays of the second year of the course.

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

Expectations for independent study:

The Art Department runs a number of activities and visits both in and out of school time. Pupils 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.

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

Yes.

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

Film-based Photography: Pupils 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, pupils will experiment with the image through computers, scanners and computer software and explore the work of artists and photographers as inspiration.

Digital Photography: Pupils 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 pupils' 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: Pupils will need a manual SLR film camera and a digital SLR. Due to the cost and unavoidable wastage, pupils 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 end of the Christmas holidays 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:

- 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 pupils the opportunity to explore their creative abilities through the medium of textiles. Pupils 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. Pupils will also explore fashion design, including making their own commercial and experimental pattern-based garments.

Pupils 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.

Pupils 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 end of the Christmas holidays of the second year of the course.

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

Expectations for independent study:

Pupils 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.

Pupils 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:

AQA Business (8132)

Head of Department:

Mr Daniel Norris (dnorris@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- 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 pupils, 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 and understanding of business
- develop and apply quantitative skills relevant to business, including using and interpreting data. A sound grasp of numeracy is essential.

General Description and Course Content:

Pupils apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. Pupils develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour.

Pupils will apply their knowledge and understanding to business decision-making including:

- the interdependent nature of business activity, influences on business, business operations, finance, marketing and human resources, and how these interdependencies underpin business decision-making
- how different business contexts affect business decisions
- the use and limitation of quantitative and qualitative data in making business decisions.

Our specification requires pupils to draw on the knowledge and understanding to:

- use business terminology to identify and explain business activity
- apply business concepts to familiar and unfamiliar contexts
- develop problem-solving and decision-making skills relevant to business
- investigate, analyse and evaluate business opportunities and issues
- make justified decisions using both qualitative and quantitative data including its selection, interpretation, analysis and evaluation, and the application of appropriate quantitative skills.

Assessment:

Two equally weighted 2 hour exams. The exams will measure how pupils have achieved the following assessment objectives.

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of business concepts and issues
- AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of business concepts and issues to a variety of contexts
- AO3: Analyse and evaluate business information and issues to demonstrate understanding of business activity, make judgements and draw conclusions.

Expectations for independent study:

Pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a study visit to enrich their experiences. Pupils will participate in financial education workshops, as well as enterprising group projects.

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

No, but it is strongly recommended to consider a KS4 Business specification in the run up to selecting A level Business in our Sixth Form.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Examination Board & Specification:

OCR Classical Civilisation (J199)

Head of Department:

Mrs E Ashby-Halstead (eashby-halstead@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

Give a broad classical education to pupils, 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 Roman City Life (50%). Pupils are expected to be able to write essays and answer context questions for both components.

Assessment:

Both components are assessed through 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 pupils should read. The Classics Department is happy to advise and would certainly recommend that pupils 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: Pompeii (2014), Sicily (2018), Greece (2016 & 2023) and Rome (2025).

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

No.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Examination Board & Specification:

Edexcel Computer Science (1CP2)

Head of Department:

Mrs Julie Stevens (jstevens@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

Provide pupils with valuable skills that are increasingly relevant in today's digital world. GCSE in Computer Science equips them with a deep understanding of how technology works, covering areas such as programming, algorithms, data structures, and computer systems. These skills are not only essential for pursuing a career in technology but also foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical abilities that can be applied across various fields. As technology continues to evolve and shape industries, a GCSE in Computer Science opens doors to a wide range of opportunities, from software development to cybersecurity, and even artificial intelligence, giving pupils a solid foundation for future education or employment.

General Description and Course Content:

The Computer Science GCSE is designed to give pupils a strong foundation in both theoretical and practical aspects of computing. It focuses on the principles of computer science, programming and problem-solving, preparing pupils for further study or careers in technology.

It is a two-year course that provides pupils with the skills, knowledge, and understanding to become competent in key areas of computer science. It is ideal for pupils who are interested in how computers work, the underlying principles of technology, and how to create software solutions. The course emphasises critical thinking, logic, and algorithmic processes, encouraging pupils to engage with computing concepts at a deeper level. They will also develop practical programming skills using Python, a language that is widely used across a broad range of industries.

Topic 1: Computational Thinking

Topic 2: Data

Topic 3: Computer Systems

Topic 4: Networks

Topic 5: Issues and Impact

Topic 6: Problem Solving with Programming

Assessment:

There are two examinations. Paper 1 is a written paper worth 50% of the qualification and covers topics 1—5. Paper 2 is a practical examination worth 50% of the qualification and covers topic 6.

Expectations for independent study:

Independent study is critical to success and pupils will be expected to undertake a variety of activities from practical programming tasks to independently researching theory topics.

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. Pupils study a minimum of six short professional dance works in a variety of dance styles.

Assessment:

Component 1: Performance & Choreography

Performance:

- You will learn four set phrases and perform two as a solo (approximately 1 minute)
- The other two set phrases will become part of a duet or trio performance (approximately 3–5 minutes)

Choreography:

- Either a solo or group choreography of between 2–3.5 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.

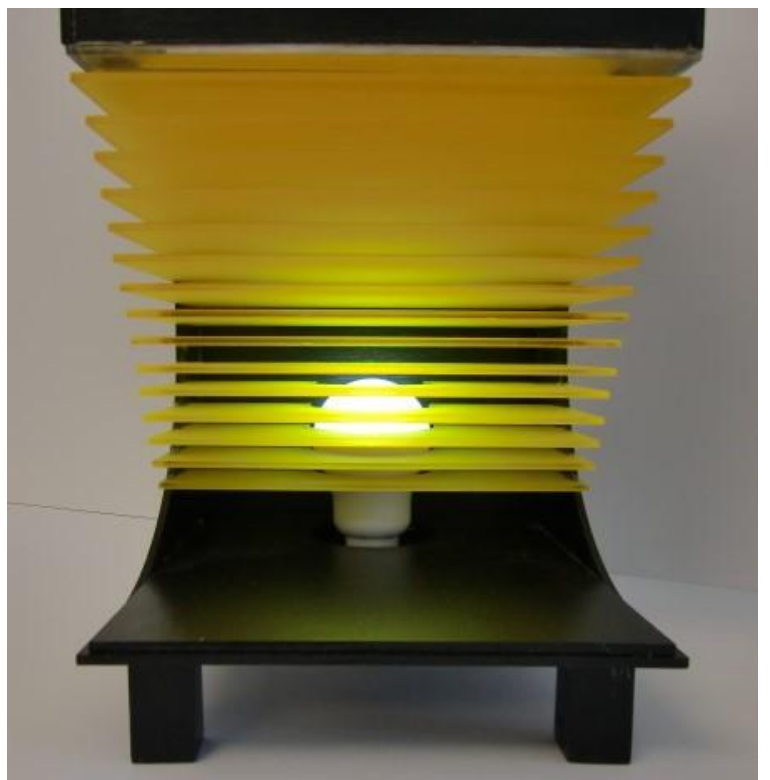
Expectations for independent study:

Pupils will participate in dance clubs within school and are automatically enrolled as members of the school dance company. There is no expectation that GCSE dance pupils will take dance examinations outside of school.

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

Yes.





Year 11 Controlled Assessment Practical Outcomes

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 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, pupils 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. Pupils 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:

Pupils 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 pupils 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 pupil 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 pupils to work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating, developing and communicating ideas
- Give pupils 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 pupils' 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 pupils 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 pupils 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 pupils will need to work on. In the practical components, pupils may specialise in performing, lighting, sound, set, costume and/or puppets.

Assessment:

Component 1: Understanding Drama. 40% of GCSE

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes. Open book.

What is assessed? Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre; study of one set play from a choice of six, and analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre-makers.

Component 2: Devising Drama. 40% of GCSE

Practical. Marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

What is assessed? Process of creating devised drama; performance of devised drama (pupils may contribute as performer or designer), and analysis and evaluation of own work.

Component 3: Texts in Practise. 20% of GCSE

Practical. Marked by AQA.

What is assessed? Performance of two extracts from one play (pupils 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?

Yes.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE*

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA English (8700)

Acting Head of Department: Miss Natalie Weight
(nweight@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- Develop pupils' ability to read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding
- Encourage pupils to read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts
- Use knowledge gained from wider 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.
- Listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.

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%)

- Section A: Reading: One literature fiction text. One short, two longer and one extended comprehension question. 40 marks
- Section B: Writing: Descriptive or narrative writing. One extended writing question. 40 marks

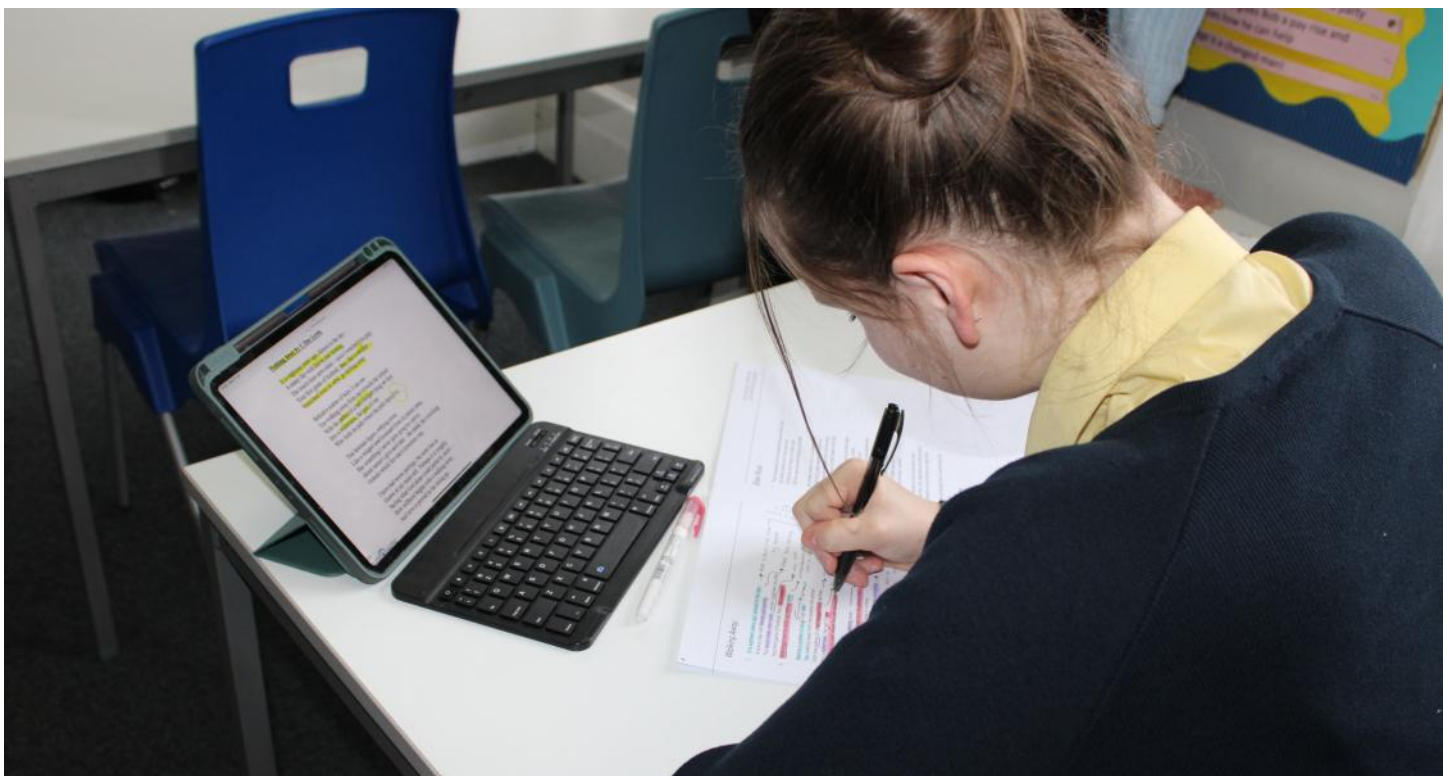
Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints & Perspectives
Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes. (50%)

- 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
- Section B: Writing: Writing to present a viewpoint. One extended writing question. 40 marks

Spoken Language NEA: Pupils must undertake a prepared spoken presentation on a specific topic and will be awarded a holistic grade of 'Pass', 'Merit' or 'Distinction'. This is awarded as a separate endorsement grade alongside their GCSE English Language grade.

Expectations for independent study: Pupils 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:

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in English Literature (4ET1)

Acting Head of Department: Miss Natalie Weight
(nweight@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- Develop pupils' ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts
- Encourage an appreciation of the ways in which writers achieve their literary effects
- Explore, through literature, the cultures of pupils own and other societies
- Find enjoyment in reading literature and understand its influence on individuals and societies.

General Description and Course Content:

English Literature is taught in conjunction with English Language. Pupils study whole texts covering a range of genres including poetry, prose and plays. Current set texts include **Of Mice and Men** by John Steinbeck, **An Inspector Calls** by J.B. Priestley, **Romeo and Juliet** by William Shakespeare and an anthology of poetry.

Assessment:

Pupils are assessed through a combination of coursework and examination.

Component 1: Poetry and Modern Prose: 2 hour exam. (60%)

- Section A: Unseen poetry. 20 mark essay question exploring the meaning and effects created in an unseen poem.
- Section B: Poetry anthology. 30 mark essay question from a choice of two, comparing two poems from the Edexcel Anthology. Clean copies of poems are provided for pupils in the exam.
- Section C: Modern prose (**Of Mice and Men**). 40 mark essay question from a choice of two. No text provided; this is a closed book question.

Component 2: Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts: coursework. (40%)

- Assignment A: Modern Drama. A teacher-devised 30 mark essay question on **An Inspector Calls**
- Assignment B: Literary Heritage. A teacher-devised 30 mark essay question on **Romeo and Juliet**.

Expectations for independent study: Pupils should be prepared to re-read and annotate the sets texts independently, as well as to research the contexts of the texts being studied.

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 drink
- 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 pupils develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing pupils' 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. Pupils will undertake one food investigation report and one food preparation assessment.

Food investigation (15%). Pupils 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%). Pupils will plan, prepare, cook and present a three-course menu within 3 hours.

Materials required:

Pupils 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.

Expectations for independent study:

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

Opportunities for further study in Sixth Form:

Food Preparation & Nutrition is not offered at A level. However, all Sixth Form pupils take a course in cooking for a healthy independent life in the enrichment carousel.



FRENCH

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA French (8652)

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 pupils for further study at A level.

General Description and Course Content:

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

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Identity and relationships with others; healthy living and lifestyle; education, and work.

Theme 2: Popular Culture – Free-time Activities

Customs, festivals, celebrations and celebrity culture.

Theme 3: Communication and the World Around Us

Travel & tourism, including places of interest; media and technology; the environment, and where people live.

Assessment:

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Pupils must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Paper 1: Listening. Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier). 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier). 25% of GCSE. Listening comprehension and dictation. Each exam includes five minutes reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played and two minutes at the end of the recording for pupils to check their work.

Paper 2: Speaking. Non-exam assessment. 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) +15 minutes preparation time. 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier) +15 minutes preparation time. Speaking using clear and comprehensible language to undertake a role-play. Carry out a reading aloud task. Talk about visual stimuli. 50 marks for both Foundation Tier and Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.

Paper 3: Reading. Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 60 minutes (Higher Tier). Reading comprehension and translation into English. 50 marks for both Foundation Tier and Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.

Paper 4: Writing. Written exam: 70 minutes (Foundation Tier), 75 minutes (Higher Tier). Writing tasks. Grammar tasks. Translation into French. 50 marks for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.

Expectations for independent study:

Pupils are expected to learn vocabulary on a weekly basis. It is important to practise the new language acquired in lessons regularly throughout the week to ensure progress. Resources and links to recommended websites, which will help pupils consolidate listening and reading skills and acquire and practise grammar, are available on Office 365. GCSE clinics run in extra-curricular time and pupils 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 (8035)

Head of Department:

Mrs Alison Roe (aroe@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

Develop 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. Pupils 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:

Pupils 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. Pupils 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.



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 pupil's ability to evaluate the arguments of historians.

Expectations for independent study:

Wider reading (a list will be issued to pupils 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.



Belgium Trip 2023

MATHEMATICS*

Examination Board and Specification:

Edexcel IGCE (4MA1)

Head of Department:

Mrs Vicci Vaughan (vvaughan@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are to:

- Acquire fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- Develop the ability to select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

General Description and Course Content:

The course covers topics in the areas of number, algebra, ratio and proportion, geometry and measures, and probability and statistics. Concepts and techniques are introduced to pupils and developed through problem solving. Pupils will need to build fluent and flexible recall of formulae and their application in questions which require the synthesis of multiple ideas. Solutions to problems require pupils to communicate their reasoning and final conclusions clearly.

Assessment:

Pupils take a final examination which consists of two papers, each 2 hours long and worth 100 marks. Both papers allow candidates to use a calculator. There are two tiers of entry – Foundation and Higher, with grades 1 – 5 (a good GCSE pass) awarded on the Foundation paper and grades 3-9 awarded on the Higher paper. No final decisions are made about the most appropriate tier of entry until after the mock exams in Year 11.

AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics (8365)

Pupils in Set 1 who show a confident understanding of the Higher GCSE content, may study additional topics which are part of the syllabus for the Further Mathematics qualification. These pupils will sit two further papers at the end of Year 11 to achieve this additional qualification.

Expectations for Independent Study

In addition to the two homework tasks set each week, pupils should be prepared to spend time reviewing previously studied topics to build fluent and accurate recall of formulae and techniques, or to consolidate their understanding of topics where they feel less confident. Successful mathematicians build their knowledge

throughout the course; asking for help from their teachers or using resources such as Maths Clinics, websites and revision guides to practise and develop their skills.

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

Yes.

LATIN

Examination Board and Specification:

OCR Latin (J282)

Head of Department:

Mrs E Ashby-Halstead (eashby-halstead@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 pupils 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:

Pupils 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 pupils 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 for examination in 2028 will be chosen from Virgil, Ovid, Apuleius and Cicero.

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: Pompeii (2014), Sicily (2018), Greece (2016 & 2023) and Rome (2025).

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

Yes.



MUSIC

Examination Board and Specification

AQA Music (8271)

Head of Department:

Miss Caroline Woodhouse (cwoodhouse@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course:

Pupils will deepen their musical understanding of a wide range of music from four main areas of study including the classical western tradition, pop, rock, jazz and blues, traditional folk, world and fusion music. They will build upon their knowledge of music theory and refine their instrumental/vocal skills in solo and ensemble settings including creating their own arrangements and curating bespoke performance opportunities. Pupils will also build confidence as composers by developing a range of techniques and approaches to create and record their own music. Throughout the course pupils will develop valuable skills in analysis, interpretation, improvisation, creative thinking, project management, leadership and presentation.

General Description and Course Content:

The GCSE Music course has practical music making at its heart with performance and composition elements (60%) completed prior to the end of course examination (40%).

Area of Study 1: Western Classical Music 1650 - 1910

Area of Study 2: Popular Music

Area of Study 3: Traditional Music

Area of Study 4: Western Classical 1910 onwards

Pupils who love music and wish to study the GCSE course will need to demonstrate that they will be able to perform

to at least Grade 4 standard (they do not need to have taken a formal examination) by the end of the course.

Assessment:

Performance (30% of total marks) – minimum of 4 minutes recorded performance including one solo and one ensemble performance.

Composition (30% of total marks) – creation of two compositions which last a minimum of three minutes. One in response to a set brief and the other a free composition.

Performance and Composition elements are internally marked and externally moderated.

Written Paper (40% of total marks) – 1½ hour listening paper marked by an external examiner. Pupils will identify musical elements, context and notations from the four areas of study and answer questions appraising two set study pieces.

Expectations for Independent Study

Pupils who are keen musicians will already be adding to their learning through their instrumental/vocal lessons and regular rehearsals. GCSE candidates are also expected to take part in at least one school ensemble to support the performance skills element of their course. The facilities and expertise of music staff are readily available during the school day and many pupils find great enjoyment investing some extra time in their performing and composing activities.

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 Curriculum PE:

Mrs Verity Brazendale (vbrazendale@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course:

This qualification is linear with pupils 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%)

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%)

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 (30%): 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, pupils will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in the full context (15 marks per activity).

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

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:

Mr Alan Beverly (abevery@stgabriels.co.uk)

Why are we here? What is the right thing to do? How do Buddhists and Christians view the world?

Aims of the course are to:

- Provide pupils with space to debate and develop their own views on religion, spirituality and the wider world
- Allow pupils to reflect on ultimate questions about the meaning and purpose of life
- Help pupils understand the extraordinary diversity of views held by religious people
- Help pupils develop argumentative written skills. Can you back up your views?

General Description and Course Content:

The course is split into two parts:

Part 1: Understanding religious beliefs and practices. Two very different belief systems are studied, Buddhism and Christianity.

Part 2: Investigating four themes on modern ethical and philosophical issues. The themes (with some example questions included) are as follows:

- **Religion & Life.** What are the origins of the universe? What value does the Earth have? Are euthanasia and abortion acceptable? What might happen after we die?
- **Relationships & Families.** Should men and women have different roles? What do religious people really think about homosexuality? Is contraception only a good thing? What does the institution of marriage mean today?
- **Crime & Punishment.** Is the death penalty ever justified? What would a fair justice system look like? Why do some people keep committing crime? Should prisons be harsh or should they rehabilitate criminals?
- **The Existence of God & Revelation.** Is there any good evidence for the existence of a God? What caused the Universe to exist? Why is there something rather than pure nothingness? Can science and religion work together?

Assessment:

At the end of Year 11 pupils sit two written exams, each lasting 1¾ hours. Questions range from very brief through to a 12 mark evaluative question, where pupils write approximately four paragraphs (or much more if you want), so no full-length essays. Pupils will take a test at the

end of each topic to check they are heading in the right direction.

Expectations for independent study:

Pupils who are interested in the world around them will naturally boost their learning in Religious Studies, as it is always in the news! In 2021, Trump supporters waved 'Jesus Saves' signs during their violent storming of the Capitol building, huge protests in Argentina led to the (92% Roman Catholic) country legalising abortion, and a school in London hit headlines after threatening legal action against a Muslim pupil whose skirt was 'too long'.

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

No, but preferred.

SCIENCE*

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:

Dr Kirstin Saynor (ksaynor@stgabriels.co.uk)

Aims of the course are 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 pupils follow Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects, introducing elements of GCSE courses. In Year 10 and Year 11, all pupils will study Science as a core subject by either completing the Trilogy qualification or the Separate Science route. The overarching topics studied are the same for both courses (see below) but pupils 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 child 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 1¼ 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 pupils 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:

Pupils are required to actively participate and become engaged with their course. They can use their Kerboodle login to access resources and checklists for each topic and use as a valuable revision guide. Pupils will be encouraged to watch documentaries and to research and extend their knowledge base. Separate Science pupils 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 (8692)

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
- Build on the KS3 study and prepare pupils for further study at A level.

General Description and Course Content:

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

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Identity and relationships with others, healthy living and lifestyle, education and work

Theme 2: Popular culture

Free time activities, customs, festivals and celebrations and celebrity culture.

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Travel and tourism, including places of interest; media and technology; the environment, and where people live.

Assessment:

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Pupils must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

Paper 1: Listening. Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier). 25% of GCSE. Listening comprehension and dictation. Each exam includes five minutes reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played and 2 minutes at the end of the recording for pupils to check their work.

Paper 2: Speaking. Non-exam assessment. 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) +15' preparation time. 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier) +15' preparation time. Speaking using clear and comprehensible language to undertake a role-play. Carry out a reading aloud task. Talk about visual stimuli. 50 marks for each of Foundation Tier and Higher tier. 25% of GCSE.

Paper 3: Reading. Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 60 minutes (Higher Tier). Reading comprehension and translation into English. 50 marks for each of Foundation and Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.

Paper 4: Writing. Written exam: 60 minutes (Foundation Tier), 75 minutes (Higher Tier). Writing tasks, Grammar tasks. Translation into Spanish. 50 marks for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier. 25% of GCSE.

Expectations for independent study:

Pupils are expected to learn vocabulary on a weekly basis. It is important to practise the new language acquired in lessons regularly throughout the week to ensure progress. Resources and links to recommended websites, which will help pupils consolidate listening and reading skills and acquire and practise grammar, are available on Office 365. GCSE clinics run in extra-curricular time and pupils are also supported by the Modern Foreign Language assistants.

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

Yes.

PSHE & CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Personal, Social & Health Education, Citizenship & Key Skills

All pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 continue to receive PSHE lessons, which are delivered primarily by their form tutor, on Monday mornings. Among the subject areas covered are study skills; careers; economics and personal finance; relationships and sex education, and wellbeing & health education. Citizenship at local, national and international level is included in the programme. Pupils also participate in a community link visit, where they organise and run an activity for members of the local community.

In addition to sessions delivered by the form tutor, the Head of Upper School, the school counsellor and specialist speakers talk to the pupils 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 pupils to explore every university course, apprenticeship and college course in the UK plus other global opportunities such as European and US undergraduate courses.

Core Physical Education

Sport at St Gabriel's gives pupils the opportunity to be part of a team, learn about themselves under pressure, and challenge their body both physically and mentally. Sport is far more than what happens on the sports field or court. Sport instills lifelong values in our pupils, including confidence, discipline, respect, decision-making skills, a strong work ethic as well as leadership and management skills. We understand that a positive sporting experience at school encourages a lifelong love for sport and exercise.

A broad range of sport is offered through our Games afternoons, PE lessons and co-curricular provision, which includes team training and individual sports, such as tennis, judo and gymnastics. Pupils play in competitive fixtures and there is an expectation that, if selected for a fixture, pupils are available to play and represent the school. The major team sports we focus on are hockey, netball, rugby, football and cricket as well as tennis and athletics in the Summer Term.

The success of our sporting programme relies on the involvement of as many pupils as possible, not just the

school's best athletes. Achieving high participation in both team and individual sports is essential for the wellbeing and health of all our pupils. Whether an aspiring athlete on our sport scholarship programme or playing sport recreationally for fun and enjoyment, the Sports Department look forward to inspiring and motivating pupils to thrive, flourish and gain confidence through sport and physical activity.

Extra-Curricular Physical Education

Pupils have the opportunity to take part in an extensive extra-curricular sports programme, with daily sessions before school, after school and at lunchtime.

There is a strong inter-school fixture list and many pupils enjoy representing the school in teams, such as hockey, netball, tennis, athletics, rounders, cricket, football and gymnastics. Training takes place at lunchtime and after school. There are also a fitness training sessions for team players and sport scholars before school.

Specialist coaches come in to deliver more bespoke activities, such as climbing, fencing, gymnastics, judo and trampolining.



ENRICHMENT

Private Study

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

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 pupils aged 14+ the opportunity to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Bronze Award in Year 9, Silver Award in Year 10 and Gold Award in the Sixth Form. Pupils will achieve their award by completing a personal programme of activities in four sections; volunteering, physical, skills and expedition. Gold has the additional residential section.

For further details on the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, visit www.dofe.org or contact Mrs Cockar for more information (ccockar@stgabriels.co.uk).

Preparing for life in the Sixth Form

To help with the decision making on A level options, Year 10 and Year 11 pupils have taster days in the Sixth Form and each pupil meets with the Head of Sixth Form to discuss post-16 options.



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 12 February, I must
let Mrs Chicken know immediately.



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