

WIMBLEDON COLLEGE



GCSE OPTIONS 2012

Year 9 GCSE Options Meeting
Thursday 2nd February

INTRODUCTION TO PUPILS

Over the past 3 years you have studied a broad and balanced range of subjects as a part of the National Curriculum. In Year 10, you will have the opportunity to choose subjects that best reflect your abilities and interests. This booklet and the Year 9 Options Meeting are to help you make your option choices.

In Years 10 and 11 the KS4 Curriculum is divided up as follows:

Core Curriculum	
English (Language and Literature)	4 periods
Mathematics (1 or 2 GCSEs)	4 periods
Science (2 or 3 GCSEs)	6 periods
Religious Studies (GCSE)	3 periods
PE and Games	3 periods
Assembly	1 period
Option Subjects	
Option Subject 1	3 periods
Option Subject 2	3 periods
Option Subject 3	3 periods
Total	30 periods

Choosing the right subjects

Talk about your options with your teachers, your tutor, your parents and your friends (especially students who are already doing GCSE courses).

Get as much information and advice as you can and keep your mind open until you are ready to make a final decision.

Among the things you should think about are:

- what are my strengths and weaknesses?
- what are the subjects about which I am enthusiastic?

Sixth Form

Keep in mind what you think what qualifications or subjects you need to apply to courses in Sixth Form and subsequently at University. Most of the courses in Sixth Form require you to achieve at least a **Grade B** in order to be accepted, so you do need to think about which subjects you are likely to get the highest grades in.

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not a new qualification. It is a new certificate that will be awarded to any student who secures a GCSE Grade C or higher in the following subjects:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- 2 Sciences (Core and Additional or 2 out of Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- 1 Modern Foreign Language or a Classical Language
- 1 Humanity (History or Geography)

The Department for Education has included these subjects as it believes the combination gives pupils the opportunity to study a broad core of subjects, which in turn leaves a wide variety of subjects and career pathways open to pupils after their GCSEs.

Key dates

Friday 3rd February – GCSE Options Pupil Presentation

There will be presentation for all Year 9 pupils in order to explain the option choices and process in detail.

Thursday 23rd February – Year 9 Parents’ Evening

In order to help you decide on your options there will be a Parents’ Evening where you can discuss option choices with your subject teachers. The school will also arrange an Options Interview for every boy with either Mr Cargill, Mr Ventom or Mr Doran

Tuesday 6th March – Deadline for handing in Option Choices

Once you have decided on your option choices complete the form at the back of the booklet and hand it in either directly to Mr Ventom or to Ms Spencer (Lower Line PSA)

CORE CURRICULUM

ENGLISH LANGUAGE and ENGLISH LITERATURE

We all love stories, whether we watch films, chat to our friends or even read books (!) The study of English Language GCSE and English Literature GCSE (two separate GCSEs which all students study at the College) develops your interest in stories, communication, culture, literature, ideas and so much more. You will be reading new books, developing your writing in a wide variety of genres and styles and engaging in speaking and listening activities to develop your communication skills (highly prized by all employers).

The structure of the two courses we run (GCSE and IGCSE) is rather complicated. All will become clear as you are guided through assessments and exam preparation, but some information is also provided below.

Sets 1 and A only

IGCSE English Language

Exam Board and Specification Code: CIE 0522

Exam: Paper 2 and Paper 3

Speaking and Listening coursework: Component 6

Link: http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/subject?assdef_id=1029

IGCSE English Literature

Exam Board and Specification Code: CIE 0476

Exam: Paper 1 (Open Books) and Paper 3 (Unseen)

Set texts are currently: *Julius Caesar*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Songs of Ourselves* (a poetry anthology)

Link: http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/subject?assdef_id=1027

Sets 2 and 3 only

English Language

Exam Board and Specification Code: AQA 4705

EXAM: Unit 1: ENG1F / ENG1H

Unit 2 (speaking and listening controlled assessment): ENG02

Unit 3(written controlled assessments): ENG03

Link: <http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/english/english-language-overview.php?id=01>

English Literature

Exam Board and Specification Code: 4710

EXAM PAPER 1 (*An Inspector Calls* & *Of Mice and Men*): Unit 1: 47101

EXAM PAPER 2 (Poetry cluster from Poetry Anthology & unseen poetry): Unit 2: 47102

Controlled Assessment: Unit 3 (Shakespeare / poetry comparison coursework): 47103

Link: <http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/english/english-literature-overview.php?id=01>

MATHEMATICS

Maths in year 10 will develop the concepts used at KS3. The main focus in the first term will be the Statistics element that is required for the GCSE examination. Then the course will develop algebraic manipulation and trigonometry. All groups will start the Higher linear course but it is envisaged that the top set will sit the examination at an earlier stage and then move onto the GCSE in Statistics. This means that the top set will gain two mathematics qualifications by the end of their Syntax year which will stand them in good stead for further studies in this subject.

The course is based upon the ebook that the pupils will download onto their memory sticks which is located in the central resource library.

There will be a rigorous fortnightly assessment that will determine possible set changes.

Year 10 topics:

- Autumn term
- Statistics, angles and algebra
- Spring Term
- Shapes and volumes, measure and linear equations
- Summer Term
- Trigonometry, graphs, transformations and inequalities.

Exam Board and Specification Code: Edexcel 1MA0

Link: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse10/maths/maths-a/Pages/default.aspx>

SCIENCE

GCSE Science encourages students to develop their curiosity about the living world (Biology), the material world (Chemistry) and the physical world (Physics); and provides insight into and experience of how science works. It enables students to engage with biology, chemistry and physics in their everyday lives and to make informed choices about further study in science and related disciplines, and career choices.

Students continue with their studies in Core Science for the first term of Year 10:

Unit B1 – Influences on Life	25%
Unit C1 – Chemistry in our world	25%
Unit P1 – Universal physics	25%
Unit CA – Controlled assessment	25%

Depending on which set students are in, they will follow either:

Separate Sciences - Biology, Chemistry and Physics (**Sets A, 1A and 1B**)

Core Science GCSE and Additional Science GCSE (**Sets 2, 3A and 3B**)

Core Science GCSE and BTec Science (**Set 4**)

Exam Board and Specification Code: Edexcel 2101 (Science), 2103 (Additional Science), 2105 (Biology), 2107 (Chemistry), 2109 (Physics)

Link: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/GCSE-science-2011/Pages/default.aspx>

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Students will be studying a number of topics which build on their KS3 programme of study as well as the application of their knowledge of the Catholic Religion to issues of everyday concern such as poverty, evil and suffering, marriage and family life, racism and sexism, and attitudes to people of other religions. Religious Studies develops an appreciation of the Catholic faith and the religious values it inculcates to give direction and meaning to our lives.

It is a good preparation for Religious Studies A Level and we currently have 46 students studying the subject at A Level/PreU. It is accepted as a subject of academic rigour with a strong theoretical dimension. This is necessary for the top universities to accept a subject at A Level and for them to be willing to make applicants an offer of a place to study at their institution. Beyond this it is appreciated by employers as a subject which develops skills valuable and useful in the workplace.

Religious Studies is timetabled across the four Option blocks, so that it can be chosen in any of these Timetable Blocks, and three "Option Subjects" chosen in the other Option Blocks. All students prepare for GCSE in Religious Studies at Wimbledon College, as is the practice in all Catholic schools in this country.

Last year 82% of students achieved grades A*-C and 38% grades A*/A contributing to the whole school's healthy value-added score.

Due to the changes announced in the recent Government White Paper, students studying for Religious Studies at GCSE will take their examination in the summer of 2014 (there will no longer be a unit taken at the end of Year 10).

Exam Board and Specification Code: Edexcel 2RS01

Link: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/rs/Pages/default.aspx>

OPTION SUBJECTS

ART

In Art you will study the work of a range of Artists, look at the things that inspired them and create work of your own in a range of materials and techniques including photography, collage, painting, printing and 3D.

You will learn how to collect and present research, develop ideas and experiment with materials and techniques, you will develop skills that will allow you to work independently and make judgement and decisions about how your work progresses, skills that will be invaluable in the world of higher and further education and future employment in such diverse careers as Product Design, Fashion Design, Architecture, Advertising, Illustration, Photography, Textile Design,

The course consists of 4 Units:

- Unit 1 - (20%) Photography/Drawing/Painting/Collage and Printing Skills based projects, an introduction to GCSE Art
- Unit 2 - (20%) Natural Forms Kew Gardens
- Unit 3 - (20%) Cities
- Unit 4 - (40%) Externally Set Exam

Exam Board and Specification Code: Edexcel 2AD01

Link: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/Art/Pages/default.aspx>

AWARDS COURSE

The aims of the qualification is to help you develop and demonstrate a range of skills and to provide a way that you can gain credit for what you have learnt from the wide variety of activities you are undertaking both inside and outside formal education. At the end of this course you will gain a Certificate of Personal Effectiveness worth up to 28 GCSE points. Students have the opportunity to upgrade this to the equivalent of a GCSE Grade B by completing additional work.

The course helps you to recognise your own personal achievement, helps you to manage your own learning and broaden your experience. To gain the GCSE you must provide all the evidence of your achievements in a Portfolio, this course is completely coursework based with no exam at the end.

Over the two years the students work to complete 12 credits which are gained from a wide variety of modules. The most popular modules being: Sport and Leisure, Independent Living, Health and Fitness, Science and Technology and Expressive Arts.

This year the students have had several visits as part of their course i.e to Wimbledon Common, Chessington World of Adventures and Ice Skating at Guildford Spectrum and they have been Scuba Diving in the school pool twice with 'Lodge Scuba' .

They are currently working towards a Personal Life Saving Award through a regular swimming session within the Awards course. In previous years the students have been to a

local school and planned and cooked an individual meal for themselves which they thoroughly enjoyed. They also completed a First Aid Course which gained them 2 credits towards their final exam.

The course is run by the Brackenbury's Department and is taught by Mrs Apthorpe and Ms Andrews.

Exam Board and Specification Code: ASDAN CoPE Level 1& 2

Link: http://www.asdan.org.uk/Qualifications/CoPE_1_and_2

BUSINESS STUDIES

Want to learn why our 'Economy' is in a 'Recession' and what this actually means?

Fact or Fiction; David Beckham has earned more through 'Sponsorships' and the "Beckham Brand" than he has through playing football?

What "skills, qualities and characteristics do I need to be a successful 'Entrepreneur'?"

Why is 'Apple' so Successful?

If you want to learn the answer to these questions in a subject that builds your knowledge up from the beginning all the way through to the advanced stages of becoming a budding young business man then Business Studies is the right choice for you.

Studying and pursuing Business Studies could lead to jobs in Financial Accounting, Marketing and Advertising, Management or Recruitment Consultancy or even towards becoming a self employed Businessman who runs their own business! Famous Business graduates include; Donald Trump, Tiger Woods, Sean Diddy Combs and Arsene Wenger to name just a few!

The course consists of 3 Units:

- Unit 1 - (25%) Introduction to Small Businesses
Multiple Choice External Exam Question Paper 45Mins 40 Marks
Outline Study: How to spot a business opportunity, what is enterprise & enterprise skills, the economy including interest and exchange rates, demand & supply
- Unit 2 - (25%) Investigating Small Businesses
Timed Controlled Assessment 3 weeks 40 Marks
Outline Study: Candidates are required to choose 1 question out of a possible 5 and carryout extensive research into the topic question before finally answering the actual question in exam controlled conditions.
- Unit 3 - (50%) Building a Business
Short Answer and Extended Answer Exam Question Paper 1h30 mins 90 Marks
Outline Study: How to meet customer needs through Marketing and Branding, effective financial management - Cash Flow, Break Even, Sources of Finance. Motivational theory & Business Ethics

Exam Board and Specification Code: Edexcel 2BS01

Link: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/Business/Business/Pages/default.aspx>

DRAMA

What did you like best about Drama at Key Stage 3? Was it the practical acting and design skills? Was it working with others on a project? Was it watching live theatre? Was it acting in front of an audience? Was it making up your own drama? Was it the history behind the different theatre forms? Whatever you liked best, there is more of it waiting for you at GCSE level. Drama GCSE complements your other option choices well, and sets you up for life with skills ranging from the ability to work with others, the confidence to perform and present in front of an audience, a knowledge of how to research and look for meaning in texts, and an deep enjoyment of the art of production.

The course (WJEC) consists of 3 units, all taken in Year 11:

- Unit 1: (60%) A practical project of devising a play on a theme given by the exam board, and three written essays on the rationale, development and presentation of your play - marked by the teacher.
- Unit 2: (20%) Performance of a short piece of script to a visiting examiner.
- Unit 3: (20%) Written exam on the study of a set text.

Exam Board and Specification Code: WJEC 4150

Link: <http://www.wjec.co.uk/index.php?subject=47&level=7>

GRAPHICS

In Graphics you will study the work of a range of Designers, look at the things that inspired them and create work of your own in a range of materials and techniques including Photoshop, 2D Design, Illustrator, Google Sketch Up and Photography

You will learn how to collect and present research, develop ideas and experiment with materials and techniques, you will develop skills that will allow you to work independently and make judgement and decisions about how your work progresses, skills that will be invaluable in the world of higher and further education and future employment in such diverse careers as Product Design, Fashion Design, Architecture, Advertising, Illustration, Photography, Textile Design,

The course consists of 4 Units:

- Unit 1 - (20%) Typography, Perspective Drawing, Photoshop skills, Colour Theory - Skills based projects, an introduction to GCSE Graphics
- Unit 2 - (20%) Packaging
- Unit 3 - (20%) Logo Design and Branding
- Unit 4 - (40%) Externally Set Exam

Exam Board and Specification Code: AQA 4200

Link:http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/art_dan_dra_mus/new/art_overview2.php?id=05&prev=

RESISTANT MATERIALS

In Resistant materials you will learn how to develop practical solutions to design problems using a variety of materials and equipment in the workshop environment. You will look at established designers' work to see how they have solved similar problems and will then use various methods to develop interesting and original practical work of your own.

As a part of the course you will learn how to research and develop your own ideas and you will experiment with a range of materials, tools and techniques. You will also learn how to present your ideas and practical work in an informative way using technical drawing skills such as Isometric and orthographic drawing, and by using CAD software such as 2D Design and Google sketch up.

This course will prepare you for further study in related practical subjects and will give you skills that are relevant to the field of carpentry, product design, architecture and structural engineering.

The course consists of four units:

- Unit 1 - Storage items (skills and knowledge)
- Unit 2 - Toys (skills and knowledge)
- Unit 3 - Controlled Assessment Task (CAT) - folder presentation and practical piece (60%)
- Unit 4 - Externally set written paper (40%)

Exam Board and Specification Code: WJEC 4110

Link: <http://www.wjec.co.uk/index.php?subject=42&level=>

GEOGRAPHY

Why study Geography?

There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. The most fascinating aspect of geography is the fact that what happens in the news in the morning may well determine what you will be learning about in class that very afternoon.

Geography is a very popular subject at the College and one that students do very well in, it is also highly employable. Employers often look for candidates with a range of transferable skills that Geography equips them with: critical thinking, advanced analytical skills, an ability to interpret complex data, time management and having advanced technology skills. These are the skills you will leave with after studying GCSE geography.

What will you learn and how will you be assessed?

Unit 1 - worth 40%

- Physical Geography - focusing on Coasts, Rivers and the Restless Earth. Stimulating lessons include: Is it possible to predict earthquakes and volcanoes? What would happen if the super volcano at Yellow Stone erupted? What happened on Boxing Day 2004 and why it so much worse than the Japanese Tsunami?

Unit 2 – worth 40%

- Human Geography – focusing on Tourism, Population and Sustainable cities. Interesting lessons include: How does China deal with its population issues? How will the UK control immigration? Why do people want to visit places with extreme environments? How can London become the most environmentally friendly city in the world? How will the London Olympics impact East London?

Unit 3 – worth 20%

- Controlled Assessment: The impact of tourism - A fieldwork trip to the New Forest National Park or Sand Banks in Bournemouth is planned for next year to study how tourism effects the local area.

Exam Board and Specification Code: AQA 4030

Link: http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/geo_landt/new/geography_a_overview.php

HISTORY

‘What happened then matters now.’ History is not just ‘digging up the past’ it tells us so much about where we are today. If you take this option, you will experience a wealth of exciting opportunities to increase your knowledge, learn how to construct clearly reasoned arguments and evaluate a wide variety of historical sources including cartoons and video material.

As a GCSE History student, you will also be building a set of skills that will take you towards a range of future job opportunities including: journalism, the law, media, the Civil Service, management, politics, business and even teaching!

The course consists of 4 Units:

Unit 1 – (25%) Outline Study: Peace and War: International relations 1900-1991

Section 3 (Why did war break out 1929-39?)

Section 4 (How did the Cold War develop 1943-56?)

Section 5 (3 Cold War crises: Berlin, Cuba and Czechoslovakia c1957-69)

Unit 2 – (25%) Depth Study: Option 2A: Germany 1918-39

Unit 3 – (25%) Sources Study: Option 3C: A Divided Union? The USA 1945-70

Unit 4 – (25%) Representations of History – Controlled Assessment

Option CA9: Northern Ireland 1968-99

Exam Board and Specification Code: Edexcel 2HA01

Link: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/history/a/Pages/default.aspx>

ICT

You live in an information age and you know how to use technology – in studying ICT you will learn more about how it works and how it shapes us. In choosing this option you will learn about current and emerging technologies, and you will generate ideas to develop ICT systems.

As a GCSE ICT student you will understand the role of ICT in our society and the ways in which computers enable us to work together and share data. The potential career paths are virtually limitless; fashion, design, business, health or the environment all require a working knowledge of ICT.

The course consists of 3 Units

Unit 1 – (40%) Written Exam

Unit 2 – (30%) Two short practical projects completed in Grammar.

Unit 3 – (30%) An extended project for the second year of the course.

Exam Board and Specification Code: AQA 4520

Link: <http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/ict/ict-overview.php?id=10>

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (FRENCH and SPANISH)

A language is a unique subject!

- It's fun
- You can have access to a whole new cultural world
- It sets you apart from other candidates for Universities and jobs
- It's one of the options that counts for the English Baccalaureate
- It helps you to win high skilled jobs in the future
- You learn about yourself and your own country
- It improves your communication skills
- It gives you more confidence
- It's great for holidays!

The GCSE in French or Spanish assess the 4 skills: Listening, reading, speaking and writing. Listening and reading are final exams and represent 20% each of the GCSE exam. Students prepare for these two skills in Y10 and Y11 through past papers, class work and various assessments. The two exams are externally assessed.

The Speaking and Writing skills are evaluated through “controlled assessments”. Pupils will complete three to four assessments in each skill over the course of the 2 years. The best 2 grades in each skill will then be submitted to Edexcel. The Speaking tasks will be assessed by the teacher and moderated by Edexcel while the writing tasks will be marked externally.

Speaking and writing each represent 30% of the final GCSE grade.

You will study interesting themes such as:

- Sport and Leisure
- Travel and Tourism
- Business, work and employment
- Media and Culture

You will learn how to express yourself in target language, be taught how to improve your writing skills as well as developing your cultural awareness.

Exam Board and Specification Code: Edexcel 2FR01/2SP01

Links:

(French) <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/mfl/french/Pages/default.aspx>

(Spanish) <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/mfl/spanish/Pages/default.aspx>

MUSIC

What is GCSE Music all about?

GCSE Music is about making and listening to music. It covers performing, composing, analysis and listening in a wide variety of musical styles – popular music, world music and classical music.

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

- Involves performing
- Involves listening to all kinds of music
- Involves composing or arranging music
- Gives you the opportunity to play music with others

Course expectations:

- A genuine interest in all styles of music.
- To participate in at least one school music activity for the duration of the course e.g. choir, band and/or orchestra.
- To have some form of tutoring in your chosen instrument.
- To have a basic understanding of music theory

Exam Board and Specification Code: Edexcel 2MU01

Link: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/music/Pages/default.aspx>

SPORTS STUDIES

Do you have a genuine interest in sport and enjoy taking part in a variety of physical activities?

Practical work (60% marks) consists of at least four activities: for example basketball, circuit training, athletics and football or rugby. For each activity pupils are assessed in individual skills and effective performance. Theory work (40%) consists of one written paper common to all candidates which includes topics such as fitness, diet, anatomy, and sport in society, with regular written homework and assessments.

Success in this course can be followed with further study at sixth-form level and then provides opportunities for various university courses leading to a wide variety of career pathways. For example, you may be interested in coaching, physiotherapy, sports rehabilitation or teaching.

You must discuss your suitability for this course with your PE teacher.

Exam Board and Specification Code: AQA 4890

Link: http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/science/new/phy_edu_overview.php