



**KEY STAGE 4**

**COURSE INFORMATION  
BOOKLET**

**2015 - 2018**



## THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

Dear Year 8 Student

### KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM BOOKLET 2015 - 2018

In just a few months you will embark on the most important stage of your education so far when you will have the ability to steer your educational career in the direction that you feel suits your strengths and interests. You will soon be asked to choose some of the subjects that you feel will bring you the most academic success and life opportunities in the world of work and beyond. This is a daunting time for any child and their parent(s), therefore, we are committed to supporting every individual in Year 8 throughout this process. The qualifications you achieve by the summer of 2018 will reflect your attitude and application in each subject; it is, therefore, imperative that you select your subjects wisely.

The reforms that the Government are introducing now and next year will affect you directly. Many subjects are being revised and some will be discontinued. We have ensured to the best of our ability that the subjects we are offering are secure. There will still be announcements of reforms by the Department for Education from the time of this booklet being published until late January 2016. What we do know is that all subjects are and will be challenging. Exams in all subjects, including technical awards (such as BTEC's), will have to be taken and these qualifications will largely determine the career path you follow into adult life. Those who achieve will find the doors of opportunity wide open.

It is now law that every young person must be in some form of education or employment with training until they are 18. Therefore the choices you make now will, in part, affect your study pathways after Year 11! Most students will continue into our Sixth Form where they gain the continuing support they need to go on to University or gain the qualifications they require for employment. College is likely to be the other popular option for post-16 education, and some students will take part in apprenticeships and other training schemes.

This booklet will give you information about our Key Stage 4 courses and the choices available to you. Use the booklet in conjunction with information you will receive in Year 8 assemblies, PSHE, discussions with subject teachers, tutors, careers advisers and, of course, parents.

You are lucky to be at The John of Gaunt School with its considerable range of subjects and courses. We aim to please as many of you as possible but **if we cannot run a particular course due to lack of interest or if the demand is too great we need to know your alternative choice subject.** Think carefully about this alternative choice when you complete your forms.

The next few weeks are of vital importance - make your choices carefully ensure they suit **your** goals not the goals of others.

Ben Rhodes  
Deputy Headteacher



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GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. How are students allocated to pathways?**

A. Your pathway is decided by looking at your current performance across a range of subjects and by speaking to your teachers. We have selected the pathway we feel will provide you with the most appropriate curriculum for the future.

**Q. Can I choose any subject I want?**

A. Some subjects are compulsory. These are known as the core curriculum. You can then opt to study four other subjects. Some subjects are not open to all 3 pathways so read the information carefully.

**Q. Will I be able to change my mind in Year 9?**

A. Once options have started we are not able to move students around freely. **Make sure you think through your choices carefully, consider the reasons why you are choosing them,** as you are committing to the subjects for three years. If students are really struggling with a subject we may be able to change option groups up to Christmas of Year 9. This will be dependent on the size of other option groups.

**Q. How do I choose?**

A. It is important that you consider your options very carefully.

- Read the subject information sections of this booklet
- Talk to your tutor and teachers as much as possible about whether courses will suit you
- Look at the progress you have made in the subject since the start of Year 7
- Consider feedback you received at the Yr8 subject evening
- If you would like more information book an appointment with our careers advisor.

**DO**

- Select subjects you enjoy
- Select subjects you are good at
- Ask teachers & Parents/Carers for advice
- Think through what you might want to study after Year 11
- Consider what careers you might be interested in and research whether specific subjects are important



**DON'T**

- Select a subject because your friends are doing it
- Select a subject because you like your Year 8 teacher (they might change)
- Select subjects that are too similar
- Select a subject just because it is new and you haven't studied it before
- Select a subject simply because you think it is more practical. All subjects have high theory content and a large amount of time will be studying for exams





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CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

Planning for the future, both in terms of study and employment, is something that needs to be given a great deal of consideration even as early as Year 8. The world of work is changing rapidly and the choices that students make will lead them to the course or job they want.

In order to ensure students have support, information and guidance that is accurate and up to date we include careers education within the PSHE program in Years 8 - 11.

Students can gain specific and personal advice and guidance outside of lessons in the following ways.

1. **Use the 'Resource Companion' Website** provided by the school.  
The web address is [www.resourcecompanion.co.uk](http://www.resourcecompanion.co.uk)  
**The user login is: johnofgauntstudent**                      **The password is: BA14 9EH**  
This site has specific information for each year group as well as links to other sites such as 'eclips online' which give current information about individual jobs, qualifications and future opportunities. The site is updated with current school information regularly; check out the 'Newly added' button on the home page to find these. There is also a section specifically aimed at parents and carers.
2. **Speak to the school's careers adviser** based in the careers library next to the main school library. Opening hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, see Mrs Scott for an appointment or use the 'drop in' service each Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime - no appointment needed.
3. **Discuss plans with their tutors.**
4. **Speak to other key staff:**
  - a. House Leaders
  - b. Mr Spiers (Assistant Headteacher, Director of Post-16)
  - c. Mr Rhodes (Deputy Headteacher)
  - d. Mrs Kerr (Assistant Headteacher)
5. **Speak to subject teachers about:**
  - a. Higher level courses in their subjects for future study
  - b. Careers which are linked to studying their subjects; not all of these are as obvious as you might think.
6. **Speak to people in the jobs you would like to do.** What do they do? What qualifications did they need? What personal qualities help in their profession?
7. **Speak to older students who are studying the courses you are interested in** for an 'insider' point of view.
8. **Speak to parents, carers and other family members about their experiences and advice.** **It is the student who will make the final choice** but these are the people who know students best and can give positive support and guidance.

**Remember that it is up to you to ensure you have researched and found all the information you require to ensure the subject options right for you.**



## THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

We believe that students in Key Stage 4, (Years 9-11) should follow a broad and balanced range of GCSE subjects or equivalent qualifications, so that they acquire certain skills and knowledge that all young people need to cope with situations and experiences that they are likely to come across in the outside world. **The aim is that our Key Stage 4 students can progress their education without closing doors to opportunities in the future.** The core curriculum will consist of the following subjects for most students...

English

Mathematics

Science

Religious Education

Physical Education

Personal Development (this subject area includes the delivery of citizenship, sex education, careers education and work-related learning)

ICT - in Year 9 only

### **Students can opt to study up to an additional 4 subjects**

Our Pathways approach to the Key Stage 4 curriculum means that students will be guided towards one of three main pathways.

- Students should be aware of the pathway they are in and will have discussed this with their tutors.
- Within a student's pathway courses will be tailored to match an individual's ability and will provide sufficient challenge.

**Pathway 1** - Students will study a broad and balanced range of mainly GCSE subjects. This will include the English Baccalaureate subjects (see page 6).

**Pathway 2** - Student will have a wide choice of GCSE and vocationally equivalent courses. It is expected that students will follow the English Baccalaureate subjects including opting for a modern foreign language (see page 6).

**Pathway 3** - Students will have a wide choice of GCSE and vocationally equivalent courses. It is strongly advised that students will opt for at least one English Baccalaureate subject (see page 6).

**Pathway 4** - Students will have a reduced choice of GCSE and vocationally equivalent courses complemented with timetabled study support periods to ensure they are able to progress well in all their subjects. Some may be able to study foundation learning courses offered through Wiltshire College in Years 10 & 11.



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The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification in itself but a method of recognising young people's achievements across a range of selected academic subjects. This sits within the government's key measure for student performance across a range of 8 subjects in Pools 1, 2 & 3.

At the John of Gaunt School all students will complete English, maths and at least two sciences. Students will gain the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) if they achieve GCSE passes at C grade or above in the following subjects from Pools 1 & 2.

#### **Pool 1** (both of these subjects)

- English (English literature will also count)
- Mathematics

#### **Pool 2** (Three from GCSE sciences, a language GCSE, geography, history or computing)

- Combined science or triple sciences
- Computing
- A Modern Foreign Language (usually French or Spanish)
- History or Geography

#### **Pool 3**

- Any other 3 high value qualifications (any of the other qualifications we offer)

**Pathway 1** students must study the English Baccalaureate subjects that will include triple science and either Spanish or French. They can also opt for Geography, History or computing. It is strongly advised that they select a combination of these subjects that are essential in today's global society.

**Pathway 2** must opt for either GCSE Spanish, French, geography, history or computing as this will put a student on the right path to achieve the Ebacc and maintain opportunities for further and higher education. It is strongly advised that students opt for more than one of these subjects including a modern foreign language. Pathway 2 students will be able to opt for triple science but they will have to take it as an option lesson as well.

We recommend that all **Pathway 3** students select one from: geography, history, Spanish, French or computing to ensure they fulfil the Ebacc criteria.

Obviously, the decisions will need to be informed by advice from tutors, subject teachers and other staff members. We would encourage you to think carefully and discuss in detail before making choices.

Descriptions of courses of all subjects in the Key Stage 4 curriculum can be found in the next section of the booklet. You will also be given two copies of a personalised Option sheet. One copy is for you to keep and one copy will be returned to your tutor.



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CURRICULUM PATHWAYS

**Pathway 1**

CORE CURRICULUM	OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	OPTION D (Yr9/10)
English (and English Literature) - 2 GCSEs Science - 3 GCSEs for Triple Science. Mathematics - 1 GCSE Religious Education - short course worth 0.5 GCSE Physical Education - non-examined Personal Development - non-examined ICT - non-examined (in Year 9 only)	French [GCSE] Spanish [GCSE]	Art [GCSE/BTEC] Child Development [GCSE] Music [GCSE] French [GCSE] Drama [GCSE] Business [GCSE] History [GCSE]	Music [GCSE] PE [GCSE/BTEC] Product Design [GCSE] Geology [GCSE] History [GCSE] Spanish [GCSE] Drama [GCSE] Graphic design [GCSE]	Art [BTEC] Computing [GCSE] Food Technology [GCSE] Geography [GCSE] PE [BTEC] Resistant Materials [GCSE] Citizenship [GCSE]

***\*Students must select either Geography or History or both***

**Pathway 2**

CORE CURRICULUM	OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	OPTION D (Yr9/10)
English (and English Literature) - 2 GCSEs Science - either combined science 2 GCSEs or 3 GCSEs for Triple Science. Mathematics - 1 GCSE Religious Education - short course worth 0.5 GCSE Physical Education - non-examined Personal Development - non-examined ICT non-examined (in Year 9 only)	French [GCSE] Spanish [GCSE] Geography [GCSE] Health & Social Care [BTEC] Computing [GCSE] Resistant Materials [GCSE] Food Technology [GCSE]	Art [GCSE/BTEC] Child Development [GCSE] Music [GCSE] French [GCSE] Drama [GCSE] Business [GCSE] History [GCSE] Triple science [GCSE, if selected]	Music [GCSE] PE [GCSE/BTEC] Product Design [GCSE] Geology [GCSE] History [GCSE] Spanish [GCSE] Drama [GCSE] Graphic design [GCSE]	Art [BTEC] Computing [GCSE] Food Technology [GCSE] ICT [GCSE] PE [BTEC] Resistant Materials [GCSE] Citizenship [GCSE]

***\*Students are strongly advised to select either: French or Spanish***

***\*Students must select at least one of the following: French, geography, history, Spanish or computing***

***\*Students selected and approached by the science department must choose Triple science if they want to study this course***



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**Pathway 3**

CORE CURRICULUM	OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	OPTION D (Yr9/10)
English (and English Literature) - 2 GCSEs Science - either combined science 2 Mathematics - 1 GCSE Religious Education - short course worth 0.5 GCSE Physical Education - non-examined Personal Development - non-examined ICT non-examined (in Year 9 only)	Spanish [GCSE] Geography [GCSE] Health & Social Care [BTEC] Computing [GCSE] Resistant Materials [GCSE] Food Technology [GCSE]	Art [GCSE/BTEC] Child Development [GCSE] Music [GCSE] Drama [GCSE] Business [GCSE] History [GCSE]	Music [GCSE] PE [GCSE/BTEC] Product Design [GCSE] Geology [GCSE] History [GCSE] Spanish [GCSE] Drama [GCSE] Graphic design [GCSE]	Art [BTEC] Computing [GCSE] Food Technology [GCSE] ICT [GCSE] PE [BTEC] Resistant Materials [GCSE] Citizenship [GCSE]

***\*Students are strongly advised to select at least one of the following: geography, history, Spanish or computing***

**Pathway 4**

CORE CURRICULUM	OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	OPTION D (Yr9/10)
English - 1 GCSE Science - Combined science 2 GCSEs Mathematics - 1 GCSE Religious Education - short course worth 0.5 GCSE Physical Education - non-examined Personal Development - non-examined	Geography [GCSE] Health & Social Care [BTEC] Computing [GCSE] Resistant Materials [GCSE] Food Technology [GCSE]	Art [GCSE/BTEC] Child Development [GCSE] Music [GCSE] Drama [GCSE] Business [GCSE] History [GCSE]	Study skills	ICT [GCSE]

***\*Students are strongly advised to select at least one of the following: geography, history, Spanish or computing***



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**Wiltshire College Increased Flexibility courses**

Pathway 4 students and a few Pathway 3 students may also have access to a range of vocational courses offered by Wiltshire College when they enter Year 10. These are level 1 courses and offer strong progression routes for further study at college when leaving Year 11 and prepare students for work in the relevant industry. Students will have one whole day at college per week. These options will be discussed with students during Term 4 of Year 9.

- Construction
- Motor Vehicle Studies
- Hairdressing
- Land Based Studies (Animal Care or Agriculture)
- Hospitality



## THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

### WHAT TO DO NEXT

- Read the booklet through carefully and discuss it with parents/carers.
- Attend the Options evening on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 6.30pm** when you will be able to hear a talk about the curriculum that you will be following during Key Stage 4 and also visit displays featuring specific subjects you may choose next year
- Talk to subject teachers and your tutor about the best choices for you
- Decide on the subjects you wish to choose as your first choices and also those you will put as reserve choices
- Complete both copies of the Options sheet you have been given and hand one copy in to your tutor by **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February** at the latest.

#### Points to note:

- Options forms handed in after **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February** will be considered **after** those handed in by the deadline. This means that if you are late with your form you will have less chance of being offered your first choice of subject.
- **Not all subjects will run.** We have deliberately tried to keep our range of subjects as broad as we can and in the main students will be given their first choices. However, if a particular subject attracts only a few students those students will be given their reserve choice.

On the next pages are descriptions for the various subjects that make up the core curriculum for all students in Key Stage 4.

*The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live."  
F. Whitemore*



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: ENGLISH  
MRS A BALDWIN  
KS4 coordinator - Mr J Davis

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Qualification: GCSE

Link to AQA English Language website:

[www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700)

**What will I study?**

The course is divided into 3 assessments:

Paper 1 - 50% - Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Paper 2 - 50% - Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

**How will I be assessed?**

Paper 1 - written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes based on one single text. Reading section = 4 questions.  
Writing Section = 1 extended question.

The aim of this paper is to engage students in a creative text and inspire them to write creatively themselves.

Paper 2 - written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes based on two linked texts. Reading section = 4 questions.  
Writing Section = 1 extended question.

The aim of this paper is to develop students' insights into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives.

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

Non-examination Assessment: set and marked by the teacher throughout the course.

The aim of the assessment is to allow students to demonstrate their speaking and listening skills by:

- giving a presentation in a formal context
- responding appropriately to questions and to feedback, asking questions themselves to elicit clarification
- using spoken Standard English

**What skills do I need?**

- You should be interested in investigating and analysing the language you see around you on a daily basis
- You should be able to demonstrate your ability in functional/everyday English, and you will aim to develop these skills further
- You should be keen to experiment with language and try to use it creatively

**What can I progress on to?**

GCSE English Language is extremely useful for any future course of study and for all career paths.



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DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: ENGLISH  
MRS A BALDWIN  
KS4 coordinator - Mr J Davis

**ENGLISH LITERATURE**

Qualification: GCSE

Link to AQA English Literature website:  
[www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702)

**What will I study?**

The course is divided into 2 assessments:  
Paper 1 - 40% - Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> - century novel  
Paper 2 - 60% - Modern texts and poetry

**How will I be assessed?**

**Paper 1 - written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes.**

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19<sup>th</sup> -century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

**Paper 2 - written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes.**

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

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

**What skills do I need?**

- You should be keen to develop your critical and analytical skills
- You should be able to think and respond for yourself, communicating personal opinions and interpretations as effectively as possible
- You should be ready to experience a range of Literature with a wide variety of appeal drawn from contemporary and modern texts, texts from across the globe and texts which have had a significant influence on our literary and cultural heritage.

**What can I progress to?**

GCSE English Literature is extremely useful for any future course of study and for all career paths.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
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DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: COMPUTING & BUSINESS  
MR G LISTER

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - YEAR 9 ONLY

**What are Functional Skills?**

Functional Skills were designed to address the concerns of employers that many young people and adults lacked a firm understanding of the basic English, Maths and ICT. Studying Functional Skills will help you to develop the transferable skills you need in everyday life and at work.

**What will I study?**

In your core IT class you will be learning about a huge range of IT areas. You will be learning a wide range of skills that will help you be prepared for all of your GCSEs and your future employment.

There will also be a number of topics designed to improve your core digital literacy and focus on your skills in different pieces of software including presentation, word processing software and spreadsheet software.

Online safety will also be a big focus, and you will study courses to help you develop your ability to research safely using the internet, communicate using modern technology safely, and understand laws surrounding technology use.

**How will I be assessed?**

You will be given mock papers and lots of practice before hand. You will take either:

- Level 1- = D/E Level (1/2 GCSE)
- Level 2- = B/C Level (1/2 GCSE)

The exam is carried out on a PC and is 2 hours long, a mix of practical and some written work

**What skills do I need?**

To succeed at Functional Skills IT you will need to;

- Have independent working skills
- Have good skills in MS Office
- Know how to search the internet effectively
- Have good creative skills
- Be good at analysing IT products and designing your own.

**What can I progress on to?**

If you succeed in this course you will have the skills set for any career you can think of. The skills you will learn are very up-to-date and relevant for all jobs.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018  
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: MATHEMATICS  
MRS A PERKS

**MATHEMATICS**

**Qualification**

The *GCSE Mathematics* qualification comprises two examinations, which are of equal weighting and duration; one of which is a non-calculator paper, the other a calculator paper. (Students need to bring a scientific calculator to all lessons). Questions examine not only the student's ability to use their knowledge, but also whether they can apply it to problems and unfamiliar contexts. Marks are awarded for correct working, method and notation, not just the final answer.

**What will I study?**

The content of *GCSE Mathematics* includes topics from Number, Algebra, Shape and Handling Data. We start the *GCSE* course in March of Year 9, following the Year 9 assessment, which gives students the maximum time to complete and consolidate the topics required.

Throughout the course, extra revision sessions are organised to support students. This includes "GCSE Drop-In" sessions and an Intensive Revision Day just before the exam.

**How will I be assessed?**

As stated above, *GCSE Mathematics* involves two exams. These make up the entire qualification. Mathematics has two tiers of entry; higher or foundation. The higher tier covers grades from C up to A\*, whilst the foundation tier covers grades G to C.

To give students the best chance at fulfilling their potential, they will have the opportunity to sit the foundation tier *GCSE* in November of Year 11. Students, who achieve a C grade in November, will be entered for the higher tier in the summer of Year 11. Those who did not achieve a C grade will be entered at foundation tier again. The best grade achieved by the student is the one that counts as their *GCSE Mathematics* grade.

There is no coursework for the *GCSE mathematics* course.

**What skills do I need?**

Maths is a core subject and it involves the skills of logic, problem solving and clear communication, amongst others. Students also need to be organised in terms of time, (both in and out of the classroom), and prepared for learning. The latter includes having with the correct equipment and attitude.

**What can I progress on to?**

Students achieving a grade B or higher in *GCSE* maths are able to opt to pursue maths at AS and A-Level. Maths at *GCSE* is considered to be a vital subject by many employers and is needed for many further and higher education courses, including science, computing and business.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
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DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: PSHE  
MR M PERRATON

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Qualification:**

This course does not lead to a qualification. It prepares young people for the personal, social and health issues they may well face in the future.

**Course description:**

We believe that it is important for young people to have a full understanding of the society in which we live. An important part of this is providing the opportunities for the personal and social development of each student as well as giving them information that they will need after leaving school. Personal Development (Personal, social and health education) throughout the school ensures that students have a structured opportunity to explore the issues relating to personal organisation and management, health and safety, first aid, sex and relationships education, social awareness, drug abuse, economic literacy and careers guidance. Each topic is designed to respond to the needs of students at an age appropriate level. We continually evaluate the changing needs of students preparing for their place in the world today and course content may change in response to this. Within PSHE, Citizenship forms part of the core curriculum within PSHE for all students who will be given opportunities to gain the knowledge, skills and understanding to play an effective role in society. It will be delivered through the whole school curriculum within PSHE lessons and special events. The three inter-related strands that run through Citizenship Education are:

- Social and Moral Responsibility
- Community involvement
- Political literacy

**How will I be assessed?**

There are no formal assessments or grades given in PSHE. We promote self-assessments at the end of each topic and encourage students to set themselves measurable targets for the future.

**What skills do I need?**

The ability to listen to and respect the views of others is important, as is showing tolerance and empathy towards others. Students should relate the topics covered to their own lives and the future ahead of them.

**What can I progress on to?**

The subject has no real links but prepares students for the future and the issues they may face. Time is spent on careers guidance and preparing students for life after year school.



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DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: PSHE  
MR M PERRATON

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT QUALIFICATION

Pathway 3 - Year 9 Only

**Qualification:** ASDAN Bronze Award - Entry Level  
ASDAN Cope Level 1

**Course Description:**

ASDAN Award Programmes offer students ways of developing, recording and certificating a wide range of **personal qualities, abilities and achievements**, as well as introducing them to **new activities and challenges**. All the programmes link to nationally recognised qualifications, which contribute to the students overall performance and enhance future prospects. There is opportunity to gain credit for work outside the classroom and even through a home based challenge where parents and carers become the moderator!

Students select a number of challenges from the **12 modules** that make up the Bronze/Silver Award programme:

1. Information Handling
2. The Community
3. Sport and Leisure
4. Home Management
5. The Environment
6. Number Handling
7. World of Work
8. Technology
9. The Wider World
10. Expressive Arts
11. Beliefs and Values
12. Health and Survival

Students gain 1 or 2 credits for each section completed, with each credit representing about **10 hours of activity**. Credits can also be acquired from other ASDAN programmes, such as Short Courses or Key Steps.

**Six credits** are needed to complete the Bronze Award. Students gaining the ASDAN Bronze award will use this as half the credits needed to gain the ASDAN COPE level 1 award. A further 6 credits are needed to complete the second qualification.

Students are required to plan and review their work at key points and these Action 'Plan, 'Do' and 'Reviews' form part of the **portfolio of evidence**, which also documents the completion of challenges undertaken.



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DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: PE  
MR J DUNBAR

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Qualification:** An option to gain a Level 1 Sports Leadership Award.

**Course description:**

All students at Key Stage 4 follow an options based course. Each option is based on a term of activity during which time students are encouraged to adopt a variety of different roles including:

- Performer
- Official
- Leader

All students are assessed on their practical ability, knowledge of rules and their ability to observe, analyse and improve performance.

Students will also develop an understanding of general and specific fitness requirements with appropriate methods of training geared to promoting a healthy lifestyle and improving effective performance.

Students will have the opportunity to gain qualifications in the Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership and other sport leadership awards.



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DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: HUMANITIES  
MR S GRAY

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**Qualification:** GCSE Short Course (AQA Religious Studies B)

**NOTE:** The DfES and exam board are currently in consultation over some changes to both the examination and curriculum content of Religious Studies GCSE. From 2016 there may be some differences to the outline given below.

**General description:**

Religious Education is part of the core curriculum. This is a compulsory GCSE course taken by all year ten and eleven students. It gives an excellent opportunity to build on the skills and knowledge taught in R.E lower down the school. The course involves examining a variety of ethical and moral issues in relation to religious and non-religious views, with particular reference to British values in society. The course is started in year nine.

**What Will I Study?**

The Course focuses on the following moral issues: Medical ethics, Abortion, Euthanasia, Drug abuse, Life after death, Wealth and poverty, Crime and punishment, Conflict and political situations in the media. Lessons will focus on what religious people may think about such moral issues as well personal opinion. Lessons focus on two religions throughout the course - Christianity and Sikhism.

**How will I be assessed?**

Assessment will be in the form of regular exam practise questions in lessons to ensure that target grades are achieved. The GCSE exam will be at the end of year 11 which will lead to a GCSE short course in Religious Studies. There may be an opportunity to convert the short course GCSE into a full course GCSE at the end of year ten when the early options have finished. The Full course will focus on Philosophy and ultimate questions.

**What skills do I need?**

The ability to listen to and respect the views of others is vital as lessons tend to be based on discussions. Showing empathy towards the views of others, both religious and non-religious is vital. You will need to establish your views on various moral issues and relate them to the views of different Christian denominations and Sikh believers.

**What can I progress on to?**

Students may be able to decide to convert their short course GCSE to a full GCSE at the end of year ten. This course naturally leads on to studying the AS/A2 qualification in Philosophy & Ethics. A qualification in Religious Studies leads onto any career that involves working with and understanding people. It has particular links with Journalism, Teaching, Counselling, Law, the Prison service, Medicine, the services (like the Police force) and of course careers with a religious emphasis and vocation.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: SCIENCE  
MISS A LAANG

SCIENCE

**Qualification:** Combined Science

*Pathway 2, 3 and 4 (see course description below)*

**Course link:** <http://www.sciencelab.org.uk/gcses/>

**Course description:**

Students in Pathway 2 & 3 may follow this course. Students will complete science exams in Yr 11 worth 2 GCSE.

**Do to the reforms from central government, full details of the specifications are not yet available.**

**Assessment:**

The GCSE will be assessed through combined exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

**Students will:**

- use their knowledge and understanding to pose scientific questions and define scientific problems
- plan and carry out investigative activities, including appropriate risk management, in a range of contexts
- collect, select, process, analyse and interpret both primary and secondary data to provide evidence
- evaluate their methodology, evidence and data.

**Progression:** This Science course will give a firm foundation to go on to study A-level Science subjects.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: SCIENCE  
MISS A LAANG

**Qualification:** Triple Science (GCSE BIOLOGY, GCSE CHEMISTRY AND GCSE PHYSICS)

**Pathway 1 & selected pathway 2 students**

**Course link:** <http://www.sciencelab.org.uk/gcses/>

**Course description:**

This course provides students with the opportunity to study science to a greater depth. Students are awarded 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Students in Pathway 1 will study each of the three Triple Science subjects. They will be taught as a separate subject by specialist teachers. In Year 11 students will study Science in the lessons no longer used by their Year 9 'early option'.

Selected students in Pathway 2 will also study each of the three Triple Science subjects but they will need to select this subject in option B to provide them with the time required to gain the higher grades expected with this subject.

**Biology GCSE** will give students the opportunity to gain a good understanding of human biology, organisms, evolution and the environment.

**Chemistry GCSE** will give students a good understanding of the nature of substances and how they react together, how chemistry is used in business and industry and how our use of fuels affect the local and global environment.

**Physics GCSE** will give students a good understanding of the use and transfer of energy, as well as an insight into the nature of waves, radiation and space. They'll also learn about the application of physics in the real world they live in.

**Assessment** - The subjects are all assessed in the same way; each comprises three units.

Three exams in each of the subjects are taken in the summer of Year 11. These include both closed and structured questions and one longer question assessing Quality of Written Communication in a science context.

**Skills - students will:**

- use their knowledge and understanding to pose scientific questions and define scientific problems
- plan and carry out investigative activities, including appropriate risk management, in a range of contexts
- collect, select, process, analyse and interpret both primary and secondary data to provide evidence
- evaluate their methodology, evidence and data.

**Progression** - Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSE's give students excellent preparation and a firm foundation for studying A-level Science subjects.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

**OPTIONAL CURRICULUM**

On the following pages are descriptors of the range of subjects open to students as Options for years 9, 10 and 11.

You will need to select your choices carefully and read this section in conjunction with the Options form issued to you by your tutor.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

LEADER OF ART & DESIGN  
MR M ATTLESEY

ART & DESIGN BTEC

**Qualification:** Level 2 BTEC firsts

More details regarding this course can be found on the Edexcel website - [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com)

**Course description:**

The Art and Design BTEC course is designed to provide a broad, solid foundation for progression to level 3 and to employment in the art and design sector. There is an emphasis on developing understanding through practical work and presenting work in sketchbook format to show progression of learning and development of project ideas. Although much of the equipment is supplied, there is an advantage for students to have and work with some of their own materials.

**How will I be assessed?**

Students can attain a Pass, Merit or Distinction. Learners complete both core units and 2 Optional units to complete the course. Unit 2 is externally set and includes a 10-hour exam.

**Units**

Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Art & Design		
Unit	Core units (mandatory)	Assessment method
1	Introduction to Specialist Pathways in Art & Design	Internal
2	Creative Project in Art & Design	External
Unit	Optional specialist	
3	Communicating ideas in 2D	Internal
6	Investigating contextual references in Art & Design	Internal

**What can I progress on to?**

- An understanding of how organisations in the art and design industry operate
- The key skills to work in the industry
- And key concepts and principles related to the world of art and design.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

LEADER OF ART & DESIGN  
MR M ATTLESEY

ART & DESIGN

**Qualification:** GCSE Art

**Course description:**

The Art GCSE course is aimed at students who enjoy developing their creativity through experimenting with different materials and exploring ways of communicating their views and ideas through art. Students are encouraged to take a personalised approach to their studies and should become increasingly independent as artists over the course.

Students are taught to:

- **develop** their ideas through investigations of artists work.
- **refine** their work as it progresses.
- **record** their thoughts, views and feelings through drawing, painting, print-making, sculpture, photography, digital imaging and working in mixed medias.
- **present** finished pieces of work that have been planned and show their understanding of a topic.

The course is taught as units of inter-connected topics that build skills and understanding. The coursework project is started in Year 10 when the candidate must decide what art they will create from a given topic. In Year 11 there is an eight week examination project that is set by the board (EDEXCEL), with a 10 hour practical exam.

Work from any part of the course can be used in the Unit 1 coursework assessment, so it is necessary to keep up to date with sketchbook work and to complete 2 hours of homework each week.

Although much of the equipment is supplied, there is an advantage for students to have and work with their own materials.

**How will I be assessed?**

GCSE Art is made up of two units. Both units are assessed using four Assessment Objectives: develop, refine, record, present.

Unit 1: Coursework (this element is made up of 2 coursework units) - 60% of total GCSE grade

Unit 2: Externally set assignment - 40% of total GCSE grade

**What can I do after I've completed the course?**

The main aim of the course is to build a creative portfolio of work to progress to further courses.

Looking ahead to employment, there may be opportunities to work, for example, in local design offices, graphic companies and retail, or to become self-employed.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: COMPUTING & BUSINESS  
MR G LISTER

**GCSE in Applied Business**

The GCSE in Applied Business is an Edexcel course. This new specification was launched in September 2012. The course is graded with the usual GCSE grading system.

**What will I study?**

The course covers an overview of Business in society. Two units will be studied.

1. **Investigating How Businesses Work.** The unit contains three topics:
  - a. What is a business and what do businesses do?
  - b. How are businesses organised?
  - c. Why are stakeholders so important?
2. **Financial Records.** The unit contains four topics:
  - a. Investigating the flow of financial documents used in business trading
  - b. Investigating business payment methods and costs
  - c. Investigating the nature of financial statements in business
  - d. Investigating the importance of financial statements to business

**How will I be assessed?**

Unit 1 will be internally assessed through controlled assessment and will count towards 60% of the total GCSE. Unit 2 will be externally assessed through an exam and will count towards 40% of the total GCSE.

**What skills do I need?**

Students should have a genuine interest in the business environment and the desire to learn more. They will be creative, innovative and proactive in their approach to their studies. They should be able to work well independently and as part of a team. Good inter-personal skills are essential as networking with external businesses will be part of the course content.

**What can I progress on to?**

The practical and transferable skills learnt in Business open up many opportunities to students who wish to study further after GCSE level, either at school or college. It also opens a lot of doors into employment and apprenticeships.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: VOCATIONAL EDUCATION  
MRS M LITTLEWORTH

**Child Development**

**Qualification: GCSE Child Development**

**Course Description:**

The GCSE Child Development course is directed at students who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding about families, pregnancy and how a child develops - physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually from conception to the age of a 5 year old child. The course content is divided into six compulsory core areas of study which are continuously interrelated:

- Family and Child
- Food and Health
- Pregnancy
- Physical Development
- Intellectual Development
- Social and Emotional Development

**Summary of Assessment**

**Unit 1: Principles of Child Development (40%) Written Paper: 1 ½ hours**

One paper which will be externally set and marked. The paper will contain short-answer, structured and free response questions drawn from all areas of the specification and will assess the quality of written communication.

**Unit 2: Child Study (30%) Controlled Assessment**

One task to be selected from a bank of three tasks set by WJEC to include investigation and production focusing on a child's development. It should be between 2000 and 3000 words in length. It must demonstrate an observation of a child over an extended period of time.

**Unit 3: Child Focused Task (30%) Controlled Assessment**

One task to be selected from a bank of two tasks set by WJEC to include researching, planning, making and evaluating. It is a practical task, backed up with folder work on 5 pages of A3 paper.

**What can I progress on to?**

The specification provides a suitable basis for further study at 16+ offering progression on to academic and a variety of vocational courses.

Progression routes to Careers and Employment may also be supported by this course; these may include: Nursery Nurse, Playgroup Leader, Nanny, Teacher, Learning Support Assistant and Paediatric Nurse.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: HUMANITIES  
MR S GRAY

**CITIZENSHIP STUDIES**

**Course:** OCR GCSE Citizenship Studies Full Course

This course enable students examine and apply practical experience to topical citizenship issues. Students will undertake a study of a range of topical issues and develop and apply an understanding of key citizenship concepts including justice, democracy and rights and responsibilities. Students will be able to form their own opinions whilst critically examining the view of others relating to citizenship issues. Students will be able to develop skills and use these in a practical citizenship project within their own community.

**How will I be assessed?**

The course is divided into 4 modules:

Rights & Responsibilities - Active Citizenship - Controlled assessment - 30% of overall marks

Identity, Democracy & Justice - Understanding our role as citizens - 1hr exam - 20% of overall mark

Rights & Responsibilities - Extending knowledge and understanding - 1hr exam - 20% of overall mark

Identity, Democracy & Justice - Leading the way as an active citizen - Controlled assessment - 30% of overall mark

**What skills are required?**

You need to be interested in the world around you and the part you have to play in it.

As part of the course you will be developing the skills needed to research and analysis information and arguments about a particular issue and be able to present your own reasoned point of view taking into account other perspectives. You will develop team work through a practical project and developing an understanding of how to become actively involved in your community to make a difference.

**What can I progress on to?**

Students can progress onto a range of subjects and careers. A levels with progression from GCSE Citizenship studies include, Government and Politics, History, Sociology, Law and Religious Studies - Philosophy and Ethics, COPE level 3, Critical Thinking and Psychology

Citizenship Studies would be particularly useful if you're interested in a career involving Government (local and national); charities (especially those concerned with human rights, international development or environmental issues); law; social care, advisory bodies; the police; the Crown Prosecution Service; community groups; roles within the European Union; teaching; or journalism.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: COMPUTING & BUSINESS  
MR G LISTER - [glist@johnofgaunt.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:glist@johnofgaunt.wilts.sch.uk)

### COMPUTING

**Course:** OCR GCSE in Computing

**Find out more?**

- Visit this link <http://bit.ly/VEZBPr> to see the official OCR GCSE pages,

**What will I study?**

Computing may be studied alongside ICT. Whereas ICT can prepare you to use computers in the workplace, computing prepares you for further study or work in specific fields such as software development, games programming, telecommunications and systems support.

The GCSE course comprises three units of study:

- Computing systems and programming
- Practical investigation
- Programming project

You will develop a good understanding of how computers work, in terms of hardware, software and data transmission. There is also lots of hand on programming that ranges from game creation to software development.

**How will I be assessed?**

You will have one unit assessed via a 90 minutes written exam.

You will be taught two other units which are both assessed via controlled assessment and marked by the John of Gaunt School

**What skills do I need?**

This is a GCSE which will be of interest to you if you have strengths in Mathematics and Science and have a genuine interest in learning how to develop software and an understanding of the principles of computation. Students who have these computing skills as well as the ability to operate a range of computer software as learned in ICT put themselves in a good position to be able to work towards a career in a related field.

**What can I progress on to?** The skills you learn in this course will set up perfectly to study **A-Level Computing** at the John of Gaunt School. This could then lead you to excelling as a **Computer Science student at University**. You can also use the skills and knowledge you will gain to take the BTEC Level 3 in ICT alongside Computing.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: EXPRESSIVE ARTS  
MRS N MOORE



DRAMA



**Qualification:** GCSE Drama (AQA Examination Board - [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk))

**What will I study?**

Drama is an exciting, fun, creative and challenging course and has been designed by AQA to help students meet those challenges. The balance between the practical acting tasks and the written examination gives students the best opportunity to succeed.

Students will be given the opportunity to develop their interest in acting and live theatre through contact with professional actors and theatre productions. Students will become independent learners as well as developing the skills essential for effective team co-operation.

**How will I be assessed?**

**Unit 1** - Written Paper - 80 marks - 40% of overall marks

A - Practical work completed during the course

B - Study and performance of a scripted play

C - Study of a live theatre production seen

Students will answer Question 1 from Section A and choose one further question from either Section B or Section C.

**Unit 2** - Practical Work - 120 marks - 60% of overall marks

Students will present practical work for two controlled assessment options, each with a weighting of 30% (60 marks each).

Controlled assessment options: devised thematic work, acting, improvisation, theatre in education, physical theatre.

**What skills do I need?**

Experience from drama lessons at KS3 are a good starting point to study drama at GCSE level. Students need to be confident, committed and well organised as well as being open to learn new things and try out new ideas.

**What can I progress on to?**

Many students who study GCSE Drama progress on to study Drama and Theatre Studies at AS and A2 Level or Performance Studies at AS and A2 Level. You could also study BTEC Performing Arts.



# THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL

## KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

### FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Mr P Nickson

**Qualification:** GCSE Food Technology (AQA Examination Board - [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk))

#### **Course Description:**

GCSE Food Technology is the study of current market trends and consumer needs. We design food products for specific markets; for example you may be asked to design a healthy ready meal for children or teenagers or a meal suitable for a vegetarian or people with different dietary needs. This course has a large practical element and pupils are required to cook every week. All practicals are a requirement of the specification and all students must take part in these practical lessons. Below is a snap shot of what students will learn.

- Understand functional properties of food
- Understand the nutritional properties of food
- Develop practical food skills/methods and processes
- Design and market influences
- Product development
- Labelling, packaging, product information and codes of practice
- Social, economic, cultural and environmental considerations
- Processes and manufacture
- Storage of food and food products
- Large scale production and technological developments in food manufacturing
- The use need and effect of additives
- Understand standard components in food

Students who choose to take GCSE Food study the AQA specification. This consists of a design portfolio, worth 60% of the total marks and a single tier written exam making up the remaining 40%. At the start of the course students will be taught a range of practical skills to develop the knowledge they gained during KS3. This will be supplemented by theory throughout the course to prepare them for the written exam.

#### **Summary of Assessment**

##### **Unit 1 - Written Paper**

**2 hours 120 marks - 40%**

Candidates answer all questions in two sections

Pre-release material issued

##### **Unit 2 - Design and Making Practice**

**Approximately 45 hours - 90 marks - 60%**

Consists of a single design and make activity from a range of board set tasks. These tasks allow the students to develop their creativity.

#### **Where will this course lead?**

Successful pupils have the opportunity to continue studying Food Technology at A Level.

GCSE Food Technology is a good preparation for further Food Science and Hospitality studies and a solid foundation for 'AS' and 'A' Levels. You might want to take a GCSE in Food Technology because you simply enjoy it, or you may wish to follow a career in the hospitality industry or food sciences.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES  
MS V LOPEZ



FRENCH

**Qualification: GCSE - Examination board AQA**

If you have been studying French in Key Stage 3, then this should be your language choice for GCSE study. If you have studied both French and Spanish then you have a choice of either or both languages. You only have the choice of French OR Spanish if you have studied both at KS3, otherwise you should continue with the language you have already been studying.

**What will I study?** (Subject to government-led changes)

The aim of the French course is to enable you to be able to communicate with other people about issues affecting your own life such as your opinions of environmental problems or your views on different jobs you could choose in the future.

The ability to communicate is essential, so we will be concentrating on speaking and understanding the spoken language. In addition you will also be dealing with a wide range of reading material from signs and timetables to more complex articles and magazine extracts. Your written work will similarly develop from leaving simple messages to (for example) explaining why you enjoy certain types of holidays.

The course will develop practical language skills which will be of real use in the future for all students. There are four topic areas covered over the course of the GCSE. They are:

- Lifestyle : Health and Relationships
- Leisure: Free Time and Holidays
- Home and the Environment
- Work and Education



**How will I be assessed?**

- Unit 1: Listening - examination - Higher Tier (A\*-D) or Foundation Tier (C-G) - 20% of GCSE
- Unit 2: Reading - examination - Higher Tier (A\*-D) or Foundation Tier (C-G) - 20% of GCSE
- Unit 3: Speaking - controlled assessment - untiered, so A\*-G - 30% of GCSE
- Unit 4: Writing - controlled assessment - untiered, so A\*-G - 30% of GCSE
- You will complete 4 writing and 4 speaking assessments over the two year course. Your best two from each skill will be sent off to the exam board and will count as part of your GCSE.

**Progression** - You will be able to improve your French language skills, your knowledge of French culture and your confidence by taking part in an exchange visit to France which will run during either Year 10 or Year 11. Success on this course will enable you to start AS level in year 12.



# THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL

## KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018



**DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: HUMANITIES**  
**MR S GRAY**

**GEOGRAPHY**



**NOTE:** The DfES and exam board are currently in consultation over some changes to both the examination and curriculum content of Religious Studies GCSE. From 2016 (**not affecting the Early Option**) there may be some differences to the outline given below including:

- no Controlled Assessment from 2016 - no Foundation paper from 2016, 5% SPAG marks, 2 fieldwork trips required.

### **What will I Study?**

AQA GCSE Geography (Course B)

Geography explores a range of interesting human and physical topics:

**Unit 1 Managing Places:** Visit cities around the globe. See the sights and visions of the future!

& **Cracking Coasts:** Be inspired by our beautiful coastline and the great outdoors!

**Unit 2 Shrinking World:** Follow the tourist trail to explore amazing places around the world!

& **Hostile World:** Study awesome volcanoes, earthquakes, hurricanes & wildfires!

**Unit 3 Fieldwork & Trips:** Create two projects in lessons based on trips and research.

Geography is about understanding people and places. It is about investigating and making sense of environmental and social issues at local, national and global levels.

### **How will I be assessed?**

Geography has two exam entry levels: **Foundation** (C - G grades) & **Higher** (A\*- D grades)

Units 1 & 2 (75% of the GCSE course) are assessed by 1.5 hour exams at the end of Year 11, which include source interpretation (e.g.: maps, pictures, graphs and diagrams) and short answer questions.

Unit 3 (25% of the GCSE course) will be assessed by project work based on trips and internet research.

### **What skills will I need?**

To **succeed** in Geography you need to be well behaved, work hard in class, and study.

### **Online Revision Websites**

[www.bbc.co.uk/gcsebitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/gcsebitesize), [www.s-cool.co.uk](http://www.s-cool.co.uk), [www.gatm.org.uk](http://www.gatm.org.uk) Geography at the Movies

**Geography helps you to improve your skills for employment** including effective team working and communication skills; problem solving skills; research and data analysis skills; creative thinking and report writing skills; and becoming active and responsible global citizens.

### **What can I progress onto?**

**Geography helps you into 6<sup>th</sup> Form and a wealth of careers.** A qualification in Geography leads onto any career that involves working with and understanding people. Some examples include: tourism; business management; surveying; environmental conservation; landscape architect; research; teaching; urban planning; cartography; engineering; police; or local government officer. Geography is a versatile subject.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: SCIENCE  
MISS A LAANG

**Qualification:** GCSE GEOLOGY

**Course link:** <http://geology.com>  
<http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/geology/geology-gcse>

**Course description:**

Geology is the study of the Earth and how it works over its 4.5 billion-year history. As Geologists we study some of society's most important problems such as how we find our energy sources, water needs and mineral resources that make our day to day life possible. As scientific detectives, students of Geology study a broad range of topics such as plate tectonics to the evolution of life and economic geology. We cover the earth's physical environment and study natural hazards like landslides, volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes.

Geology and Earth Sciences use the principles of chemistry, physics, biology and mathematics in its study, as well engineering. Geology is a field science which means all students have to attend field trips, both locally (day trips) and a residential trip to West Wales where you will learn the essential field skills that every Geologist must have.

There is currently a shortage of well-trained geoscientists and the demand is growing, so careers as geoscientists can offer you exciting prospects, often with international travel. If you like science, care about the earth, are fascinated by the natural world then consider this rare opportunity to study geological phenomena.

**Assessment:**

Assessment is at the end of the course and requires students to sit a 1h30 exam which is on-screen computer based. This exam accounts for 75% of the total GCSE award. The remaining 25% of the GCSE is awarded for a Controlled Assessment with students carrying out an investigation, either using data presented as a virtual fieldwork study or using data that the students have themselves gained through their fieldwork.





THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

LEADER OF ART & DESIGN  
MR M ATTLESLEY

**GRAPHIC PRODUCTS**

**Exam board:** AQA (<http://www.aqa.org.uk>)

**Specification:** [http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/dandt/new/graphic\\_overview2.php](http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/dandt/new/graphic_overview2.php)

**What will I study?**

Graphic Products analyses the way in which everyday products are designed and marketed. It looks at areas such as computer aided design, drawing and modeling techniques, industrial printing processes, product promotion and packaging. Students will learn how to use computer based design software and a wide range of presentation techniques will be learned throughout the duration of the course. You will learn to develop your drawing techniques in varying mediums. You will produce such items as packaging, advertising materials and other graphic products.

Graphic Products is a multi-disciplinary subject, where students will develop and use English, Mathematics, ICT and Science skills to generate coursework. The emphasis of this option is on the design folder work and paper & card modelling.

**How will I be assessed?**

Assessments consist of:

- Unit 1: 2 hour written exam , worth 40% of GCSE  
PLUS
- Unit 2: Design and Make project, worth 60% of GCSE

Unit 2 is a design and make project undertaken over approximately 45hours of classroom time in which students design and make a project to meet a design brief and produce an A3 portfolio of research, design work and evaluation. Typical student projects include packaging for a new product, display and promotional materials, pop-up books, board games and architectural models.

**What skills do I need?**

An eye for detail and ability to draw are essential along with an interest in marketing, presentation and design.

**What can I progress on to?**

Graphic Products would suit any student that has an inquisitive mind and would like to progress towards a creative career in areas such as graphic design, marketing, media, architectural design and illustration.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: VOCATIONAL  
MRS M LITTLEWORTH

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

**Qualification:** BTEC First Award in Health and Social Care Level 2

*Equivalent to 1 GCSE grades at A\*-C - students can attain a Pass, Merit or Distinction.*

**Course Description** - The BTEC Firsts in Health and Social Care have been developed to:

- give learners the opportunity to develop and apply skills in English and Mathematics in naturally occurring, work-related contexts
- provide learners with opportunities to link education and the world of work in engaging, relevant and practical ways
- give learners the opportunity to enter employment in the Health and Social Care sector or to progress to vocational qualifications such as the Edexcel BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care
- give learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

This course gives you a general understanding of the Health and Social Care sector. It is suitable for students interested in working in the health and social care sector.

- Core Units, one of which is externally assessed\*, which accounts for 25 per cent of the qualification
- Human Lifespan Development\*
- Health and Social Care Values

How do people grow and develop throughout their lives? How can lifestyle choices, relationships and life events affect your growth and development? This unit provides you with the opportunity to explore how we, as humans, grow and develop throughout our lives and to investigate the factors that affect this growth and development.

These are optional units:

- Cultural diversity in health and care
- Individual Rights
- Social Influences on Health and Wellbeing
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing
- Effective Communication in Health and Social Care

Are you aiming for a career in Health or Social Care? If so, how good are your communication skills? Communication skills are vital in all walks of life, especially for those who choose to work in health and social care.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: HUMANITIES  
MR S GRAY

HISTORY

**NOTE:** The DfES and exam board are currently in consultation over some changes to both the examination and curriculum content of history GCSE. From 2016 there may be some differences to the outline given below.

**Qualification:** Currently GCSE Modern World History (Edexcel History A)

**General description:**

The modules will include political, social and economic history as in the past, but also a new aspect of history- the study of the historical environment.

So who should study history?

- People who are interested in the past and the people who lived then.
- People who wonder where we have come from and where we are going.
- People who want to know the stories behind the stories that make the news.
- People with a point of view and are prepared to stand up for what they believe in and want to make a difference.

**What Will I Study?**

It is expected that the new history course will include a module covering each of the following periods, and one module spanning all of the following periods:

1. Medieval History (500-1500)
2. Early Modern History (1450-1750)
3. Modern History (1700-present day)

- Students will study British, World and European history, with 40% of the course being British.

**How will I be assessed?** Assessment will be in the form of regular exam practice questions in lessons to ensure that target grades are achieved. Students will most likely complete controlled assessment pieces (coursework) and undertake a 'historical enquiry'. The GCSE exams will be at the end of Year 11.

**What skills do I need?**

Students will need good literacy skills along with the ability to listen and take part in class discussions. Students need to be able to evaluate sources - avoiding jumping to conclusions and learning to base judgements on hard evidence, understand propaganda and bias, avoid stereotyping and prejudice and work independently. Some political awareness is helpful.

**What can I progress on to?**

This course naturally leads on to studying the AS/A2 qualification in History as part of the Trowbridge Sixth form. A qualification in History leads onto any career that involves working with and understanding people. It has particular links with Journalism, Teaching,



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: COMPUTING & BUSINESS  
MR G LISTER

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Course:** GCSE in ICT

**Find out more?**

Visit this link <http://bit.ly/1FK9uXn> to see the official GCSE pages,  
Ask your ICT teacher for more information,

**What will I study?**

In the ICT qualification you will be studying at the John of Gaunt School you will be learning about a wide range of IT areas.

The core unit teaches you all about how the world operates online. The knowledge you will gain from studying this unit will set you up for a wide range of jobs.

You will also study one controlled assessment unit which will teach you how to use ICT skills effectively in a number of scenarios, ranging from MS Office skills to web design and sound editing.

You will develop a number of other key skills by studying this course. You will develop your independent learning skills as well as how to present and develop key documents. You will also do lots of group work to develop your leadership and confidence when working in a group.

**How will I be assessed?**

- You will have one unit assessed via an exam
- You will have one unit assessed through controlled assessment, which is marked by your teacher.

**What skills do I need?**

To succeed at GCSE ICT you will need to;

- Have independent working skills
- Have good skills in MS Office
- Know how to search the internet effectively
- Have good creative skills
- Be good at analysing ICT products and designing your own.

**What can I progress on to?**

A GCSE in ICT will set you up for any career you can think of. The skills you will learn are very up-to-date and relevant for all jobs, whether it be an office worker, mechanic or computer games designer.



# THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL

## KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: EXPRESSIVE ARTS  
MRS N MOORE



MUSIC



**Qualification:** GCSE Music (Examination Board AQA - [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk))

### What will I study?

Students work in the three areas of listening, performing and composing. Performing and composing (which builds on the improvisation and chord work of Years 8 and 9) are completed as coursework and submitted as recordings which are assessed at the end of the course. The use of recorded work not only gives opportunities for the specialist musician to excel, but also students who, up to now, have not considered themselves as music readers and writers to present coursework to a high standard.

Successful students have to develop music-reading skills, be confident in the use of music jargon, enjoy making music and listening to many styles. Music at examination level offers those with an interest, the opportunity to turn what could just be a hobby into a useful and worthwhile qualification.

### How will I be assessed?

- **Unit 1: Listening to and Appraising Music** (80 marks - 20%)  
A written paper that lasts 1 hour and is taken at the end of the course. Students will listen to a variety of music and will answer questions based on the elements of music.
- **Unit 2: Composing and Appraising Music** (40 marks - 20%)  
Compose a piece of music in the style set by the exam board and complete a write up explaining how you have composed your piece.
- **Unit 3: Performing Music** (60 marks - 40%)  
Perform two pieces of music of your choice - one solo piece and one ensemble piece.
- **Unit 4: Composing Music** (30 marks - 20%)  
Compose a piece of music in a style of your choice

### What skills do I need?

Basic keyboard skills are required - class work in Key Stage 3 will aid this. The ability to be able to work both individually and as part of an ensemble. Finally a willingness to learn new skills such as how to use notation software like Sibelius.

### What can I progress on to?

Many students who study GCSE Music progress on to study Music at AS and A2 Level or Performance Studies at AS and A2 Level. You could also study AS and A2 Music Technology or BTEC Music Performance and Music Production.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
MR J DUNBAR

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Course:** GCSE Physical Education <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gcse/blt/pe/>

**What will I study?**

Students are introduced to the theory behind living healthy lifestyles and improving sporting performance. Theory topics include the anatomy of the body, improving health & fitness, learning skills, the organisation of sport in society and ways to increase participation in sport.

In practical lessons students will study a wide range of individual and team sports. The 4 strongest sports are then used for assessment. Students are strongly recommended to continue playing for school and community clubs so that they are accessing regular competition.

**How will I be assessed?**

40% - written examination

60% - practical. This includes being assessed in your 4 best sports as well as 2 controlled assessments which focus on improving healthy lifestyles and sporting performance.

**What skills do I need?**

A willingness to take part in a wide range of practical sports is essential. Therefore, strong organisational skills are required to ensure you have the necessary clothing and equipment. It is important that you are regularly performing in a range of sports, including both team and individual activities. A sound level of fitness is certainly an advantage. There is also the option to be assessed as a coach or leader so completing the Level 2 Sports Leadership Award in core PE is recommended.

**What can I progress on to?**

Students can progress directly on to the A Level PE course or Level 3 BTEC Sport, which are both run in our Sixth Form. Those with an interest in sports coaching may choose the Level 3 Higher Sports Leaders Award in our Sixth Form. Wiltshire College also run a variety of sport related vocational courses.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

LEADER: ART & DESIGN  
MR M ATTLESEY

PRODUCT DESIGN

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Specification:** [http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/kd/ocr\\_9951\\_kd\\_spec.pdf](http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/kd/ocr_9951_kd_spec.pdf)

**What will I Study?**

Product Design explores 4 main areas:

- You will learn about iconic designers and products and investigate what made them so successful
- Explore a range of materials including modern 'smart materials' and how they can be manipulated to make novel and successful products
- Examine design processes and the implications for manufacture
- Test your creativity through the 'Innovation Challenge'

**How will I be assessed?**

Assessments consists of:

- Unit 1: 2 hour written exam , worth 40% of GCSE  
PLUS
- Unit 2: Design and Make project, worth 60% of GCSE

Unit 2 is a design and make project undertaken over approximately 45hours of classroom time in which students design and make a project to meet a design brief and produce an A3 portfolio of research, design work and evaluation.

**What skills will I need?**

The product design course is perfect for *creative thinkers* who also have good practical skills and enjoy Design and Technology. The course requires excellent *planning* skills, *problem solving* and *perseverance*. Drawing and computer skills will help you to present your ideas clearly.

**What can I progress onto?**

**Courses:** Product Design leads directly onto A Level Courses in Product Design or Design and Technology. It is also highly relevant to other technical and design related subjects including engineering and manufacturing.

**Careers:** Product Design is relevant to all design related careers including product design, engineering, architecture, as well as practical careers such as carpentry due to the technical nature of the design work.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

LEADER: ART & DESIGN  
MR M ATTLESEY

RESISTANT MATERIALS

Exam board: AQA (<http://www.aqa.org.uk>)

Specification: <http://store.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/pdf/AQA-4560-W-SP.PDF>

**What will I study?**

This course is ideally suited to students who enjoy and are inspired by the possibilities of designing and making products using a range of resistant materials. You will be enthused and challenged by the range of practical activities possible. Through mini-projects you will learn new skills in working with wood, metal and plastic and then use these new skills to develop a product that meets a given design brief.

Resistant Materials is a practical subject area which requires the application of knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning, producing products and evaluating them. In addition you will consider the environmental implications of working with these materials as well as thinking about how products can be manufactured in the 'real-world' using modern computer-aided-manufacture techniques.

**How will I be assessed?**

Assessments consists of:

- Unit 1: 2 hour written exam , worth 40% of GCSE  
PLUS
- Unit 2: Design and Make project, worth 60% of GCSE

Unit 2 is a design and make project undertaken over approximately 45hours of classroom time in which students design and make a project to meet a design brief and produce an A3 portfolio of research, design work and evaluation.

**What skills do I need?**

You should have demonstrated good practical skills throughout year 7 and 8 resistant materials and have a creative mind. Most importantly you must have an interest in how physical products are made and have the resilience to see a long-term project through over several months.

**What can I progress on to?**

This course provides the skills and understanding relevant for careers/further study in product design, engineering, construction and many specific craft and trade areas.



DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES  
MS V LOPEZ

### SPANISH

**Qualification:** GCSE - Examination board AQA

If you have been studying Spanish in Key Stage 3, then this should be your language choice for GCSE study. If you have studied both French and Spanish then you have a choice of either or both languages. You only have the choice of French OR Spanish if you have studied both at KS3, otherwise you should continue with the language you have already been studying.

**Course description:** (Subject to government-led changes)

The aim of the Spanish course is to enable you to be able to communicate with other people about issues affecting your own life such as your opinions of environmental problems or your views on different jobs you could choose in the future.

The ability to communicate is essential, so we will be concentrating on speaking and understanding the spoken language. In addition you will also be dealing with a wide range of reading material from signs and timetables to more complex articles and magazine extracts. Your written work will similarly develop from leaving simple messages to (for example) explaining why you enjoy certain types of holidays.

The course will develop practical language skills which will be of real use in the future for all students. There are four topic areas covered over the course of the GCSE. They are:

- Lifestyle : Health and Relationships
- Leisure: Free Time and Holidays
- Home and the Environment
- Work and Education

**Assessment** - These topic areas form the basis of the language covered in the assessments which are divided into four skill areas as follows:

- Unit 1: Listening - examination - Higher Tier (A\*-D) or Foundation Tier (C-G) - 20% of GCSE
- Unit 2: Reading - examination - Higher Tier (A\*-D) or Foundation Tier (C-G) - 20% of GCSE
- Unit 3 Speaking - controlled assessment -untiered, so A\*-G - 30% of GCSE
- Unit 4 Writing - controlled assessment - untiered, so A\*-G - 30% of GCSE
- You will complete 4 writing and 4 speaking assessments over the two year course. Your best two from each skill will be sent off to the exam board and will count as part of your GCSE.

**Progression** - You will be able to improve your Spanish language skills, your knowledge of Spanish culture and your confidence by taking part in an exchange visit to Spain which will run during either Year 10 or Year 11. Success on this course will enable you to start AS level in year 12.



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL  
KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2015 - 2018

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
MR J DUNBAR

**BTEC SPORT**

**Course:** Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport  
<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts2012/sport/Pages/default.aspx>

**What will I study?**

This qualification covers the Physical Education Key Stage 4 mandatory criteria by combining the delivery of the core units (*Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise* and *Unit 2: Practical Sports Performance*) with an optional specialist unit (*Unit 5: Training for Personal Fitness*) and one other optional unit.

**How will I be assessed?**

One core unit will be externally assessed as an exam, whilst the other three units will be assessed using a range of evidence. This could include written assignments, verbal presentations, practical performance or role play.

**What skills do I need?**

The assessment approach for the internally assessed units in the qualification structure enables learners to receive feedback on their progress throughout the course as they provide evidence towards meeting the unit assessment criteria. Students will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and achievement, taking into account the sports industry standards for behaviour and performance. Good practical skills, the ability to organise and complete work to deadlines, and competent IT skills will allow learners to meet all the needs of the course.

**What can I progress on to?**

The Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport provides a good foundation for learners in post-16 education, or to entry level job roles within the sector. Achievement at Level 2 provides a suitable foundation for further study within the sector through progression on to other vocational qualifications, such as Edexcel BTEC Level 3 qualifications in Sport or Sport and Exercise Sciences. Successful students at Level 2 may also consider general qualifications at Level 3, such as A Level Physical Education.