

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 10 is the start of GCSE and technical qualifications for our pupils. This is an exciting stage where pupils deepen their knowledge, practise higher-order skills and begin preparing in earnest for final assessments in Year 11. Teachers will support pupils to become increasingly independent, organised and reflective learners, with clear guidance on revision habits, assessment milestones and how to act on feedback.

Below is an outline of what your child will study this year, subject by subject.

Art & Design (GCSE)

Pupils complete two assessed units: a Personal Portfolio (60%) and an Externally Set Assignment (40%). The portfolio contains modules such as drawing & painting, ceramics, print-making and mixed media, developed mainly through A3 sketchbooks. Students research historical and contemporary artists and refine ideas into 2D and 3D outcomes. In January of Year 11, the exam board releases ESA themes; pupils develop a new sketchbook of responses before a 10-hour supervised practical in the spring. Work is internally marked in May and externally moderated in June.

Biology (GCSE)

Key topics include Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection, Homeostasis and Ecology. There is no coursework; pupils complete required practicals and must know how to plan, carry out and evaluate them.

Business Studies (Cambridge National: Enterprise & Marketing)

Year 10 covers two units: R067 Enterprise and Marketing Concepts (exam) — customer needs, market research, pricing, product development and financial viability; and R068 Design a Business Proposal (coursework) — creating a product proposal for a target customer, selecting pricing, producing design ideas and planning promotion. Emphasis is on creativity, independence and problem-solving.

Chemistry (GCSE AQA)

Topics include the Atom, Chemical Changes, Organic Chemistry and Chemistry of the Atmosphere. Pupils complete required practicals and learn to plan, execute and evaluate investigations.

Child Development (NCFE: L1/2 Technical Award)

Five areas are studied: child development; factors affecting development; care routines; early years provision and curriculum; and legislation, policy and procedure. There is a strong emphasis on reading, research and preparing written coursework.

Computer Science (GCSE)

Pupils deepen understanding of how computer systems work and strengthen critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving. Alongside programming, they explore what happens “behind the scenes” of software and hardware systems.

CPE

Themes: Relationships, Health & Wellbeing, and Living in the Wider World. Topics include same-sex relationships; forced vs arranged marriage; gender and trans identity; sexism; harassment and revenge porn; fake news and critical thinking; anti-social behaviour; CVs; the criminal justice system; racism and extremism; gangs and county lines; suicide, grief and bereavement; hate crime; binge drinking; social media, self-esteem and effective screen-time management.

Creative iMedia (Cambridge National)

Pupils learn creative applications of ICT: web design, digital artwork/graphics and multimedia (video, audio, animation, image and text). They work through the full product life cycle — research, planning, implementation and review — responding to briefs and producing original solutions.

Design & Technology: Resistant Materials (GCSE)

Across autumn and spring, all pupils study core theory for Papers & Boards, Textiles, Timbers, Metals & Alloys and Polymers, plus processes, new/emerging technologies and design approaches (forms the written exam content, 50%). Practical skills are built for the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA, 50%) undertaken in Year 11. Two short “mini-NEAs” in Year 10 develop researching, designing, making and evaluating. Official NEA contexts are released in June for work that runs into Year 11.

Design & Technology: Textiles (GCSE)

Same core theory coverage and assessment structure as RM (above). Pupils complete mini-NEAs to hone research, design, making and evaluation skills ahead of the Year 11 NEA.

Drama (GCSE)

Students devise a performance from a stimulus, applying key strategies and performance elements, and study influential practitioners/playwrights. They refine vocal and physical skills to create convincing characters, see live theatre, and evaluate their own and others’ work. They also explore scripted pieces and how staging choices meet both playwright and performer intentions.

English Language (GCSE)

Pupils analyse language and structure across a range of non-fiction and literary texts from different periods, and develop clear, effective and imaginative communication in writing and speaking. There is a strong focus on close reading, comparison, summary and evaluation.

English Literature (GCSE)

Texts include *An Inspector Calls* and the Love & Relationships poetry anthology (alongside other poems). Pupils analyse language, structure, context and ideas, and practise sustained written responses and comparative analysis.

French (GCSE)

Skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing are developed through topics such as media & technology, personal identity, school, healthy living and holidays. Pupils use language creatively in real-life contexts and deepen grammatical understanding and cultural awareness.

Geography (GCSE)

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment — tectonic and weather hazards, climate change, ecosystems, cold environments, coasts and rivers. Introduction to Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment — resources, development and globalisation, and urban issues. Fieldwork skills and exam technique are embedded.

German (GCSE)

Listening, speaking, reading and writing continue to develop through topics including school, free time, personal identity, healthy living and neighbourhood. Creativity, real-life communication and stronger grammar underpin progress.

Health & Fitness (NCFE: L1/2 Technical Award)

Students learn body systems and their functions, principles of training, short- and long-term effects of exercise, components of fitness and fitness testing, and how to plan a health & fitness programme. Assessment: exam (40%) and a synoptic project (60%).

Health & Social Care (NCFE: L1/2 Technical Award)

Four content areas: health & social care provision and services; job roles and values; legislation, policy and procedure; and human development across the lifespan. Significant emphasis on reading, research and coursework preparation.

History (GCSE)

Two examined units in Year 10: Health and the People, c.1000–present (thematic study) and Germany, 1890–1945 (period study). Pupils evaluate sources, track change and continuity, and write extended answers on causation and significance. Each unit is 25% of the GCSE.

Hospitality & Catering (Level 1/2 Award)

Pupils study how the sector operates and factors behind successful provision; food safety & hygiene; nutrition and diet; provenance; and preparation of key commodities (meat, fish, eggs, dairy, fruit/veg, cereals & potatoes). Practical work develops preparation and cooking, organisation and time-management. Assessment in Year 11: external exam (40%) and internal practical assessment (60%).

Mathematics (GCSE)

Teaching groups reflect learning needs, with high expectations for all. Year 10 builds fluency and problem-solving across: number & place value; indices, roots, reciprocals, surds and order of operations; factors & multiples; algebraic expressions and equations; fractions; linear graphs and sequences; percentages; ratio, proportion & similarity; polygons, angles, parallel lines and basic circle theorems; Pythagoras & trigonometry; perimeter, area & volume; bounds; and probability. Pupils also learn to communicate mathematics clearly in various forms.

Media Studies (GCSE)

Year 10 introduces core analytical areas — image analysis, representation, narrative, genre and audience — and develops technical production skills by recreating set media texts. Pupils deconstruct a range of exam-board set texts across formats. Component 1 is the main focus in Year 10; Component 3 (NEA) begins at the end of Year 10 and continues in Year 11.

Music (GCSE)

Year 10 covers: Performing (solo and ensemble), Composing (work towards two pieces: one to a set brief and one free/brief-led), and Listening & Appraising (Areas of Study and set works). Students build practical skill, critical understanding and stylistic awareness in preparation for final submissions and the 1h45 appraising paper in Year 11.

PE (GCSE)

Students study applied anatomy & physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data, sports psychology and socio-cultural influences. Practical performance and analysis lead to plans for improvement and healthy active lifestyles.

Physical Education (Core — non-exam)

All pupils take part in a broad programme of team and individual activities to develop fitness, skills, tactics and enjoyment, with opportunities to evaluate and improve performance.

Physics (GCSE)

Topics include Energy, Electricity, Forces, Waves and Magnetism. Pupils complete required practicals and must learn the set Physics equations, which are not provided in the exam.

Psychology (GCSE)

Year 10 topics: Research Methods, Memory, Perception and Development. Students conduct small-scale research, study classic and contemporary evidence, and write structured essays that describe, apply and evaluate theories and studies. The Year 10 mock focuses on Paper 1 (50% of GCSE); Paper 2 is the focus in Year 11.

Resource Base for Deaf Pupils (Resource Base Support)

Targeted pre- and post-tutoring for GCSE subjects, including literacy and numeracy. Provision may include speech & language therapy, auditory training and mentoring, as appropriate.

Religious Studies (GCSE)

Pupils study Christianity and Islam for the Study of Religion paper (beliefs/teachings, the nature of God, creation, life after death) and three themes for Thematic Studies: Religion & Life; Crime & Punishment; Human Rights — each paper worth 50%.

Science (GCSE AQA)

Two GCSEs covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics (including topics listed above). No coursework; pupils complete required practicals and must plan, carry out and evaluate them. Students must also learn the set Physics equations.

We are proud of the breadth and ambition of the Year 10 curriculum and look forward to working in partnership with you as pupils take this important step toward their final qualifications.

If further detail about the curriculum is needed, more information is provided in the subject curriculum maps found on the school's website.

Yours faithfully,



Nicola Welch
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