

March 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

The Year 9 pupils have now reached the point in their learning journey where decisions are made about the subjects to be studied in Years 10 and 11 (known together as 'Key Stage 4'). With the support of their families and teachers, the pupils can choose some of the subjects in which they would like to deepen their knowledge and gain national qualifications.

As you are probably aware, as part of the National Curriculum there are also some subjects which ALL pupils will study. Here at SJP, these 'core' or compulsory subjects include English, Maths, Science, RE, DT and General PE. The pupils have already made their choice about which area of DT they are following, but in some of these other subjects there are choices about which 'route' they will take.

This booklet is designed to help you and your child in making these choices. Please use the details here as well as conversations with our subject and pastoral staff to make sure you have all the information you need.

Working in partnership with parents to support the learning of the pupils is something we value greatly here at SJP – your help with this is much appreciated. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at the College.

Yours faithfully

Brian Lally  
Assistant Head Teacher

Key Stage 4 Course Guide 2009

# **WELCOME TO YEARS 10 & 11!**

This final phase of your compulsory education is probably the most important and hopefully the most exciting part of your learning so far. The next two years will bring challenge and change, as well as increased responsibility and a wealth of opportunities as young adulthood beckons.

Expectations are high for our Key Stage 4 pupils at SJP. We believe every pupil can succeed, whatever their ability. Good attendance and punctuality are crucial for success and are a basic expectation for all pupils. Pupils are really well supported and our outstanding pastoral system, similar to Key Stage 3, links very closely to the curriculum. Subject Teachers report on your progress each half term and Form Tutors will meet regularly with you in Academic Review. In addition to this, you will meet with your Learning Coach three times each year to review your progress and to set targets to take your learning to the next level – these meetings are the basis for your termly Achievement Plans, which will be sent home to your parents/carers. You will find that advice and help is available from the whole range of Key Stage 4 pastoral and curriculum staff, not just tonight but right through until the end of Year 11.

Pupils are challenged at Key Stage 4 to organize and manage their study time. Academic Review is a key focal point in each day where you will have the opportunity to continue with coursework and other assignments. Assemblies and extra-curricular activities remain an important part of College life and we hope that pupils will manage to balance their work life with enjoyment, through participating in the many events which allow time for us to have fun together as a community.

Rewarding pupils is very important to us. In each term in Key Stage 4 we will have Achievement Assemblies where we acknowledge and celebrate your hard work and encourage success. We expect that Praise Postcards, which recognise good work and effort, will be sent by post on a regular basis. All pupils will keep an Achievement Portfolio in preparation for future interviews with employers or universities. By the time you leave Year 11, you will have received lots of guidance and support in moving on to further learning, training or employment.

So there are lots of interesting times ahead! The first stage is to arrange the subjects you will be studying. Some of these you will get to choose and the details in this booklet will help with those decisions. We hope you are looking forward to joining Key Stage 4 and look forward to working with you.

# KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2009

The curriculum for you in Years 10 and 11 is made up of two sections:

- (1) A **compulsory section** of core subjects;
- (2) An '**options**' section where you can make a choice of GCSE and BTEC subjects

## CAN I CHOOSE ALL MY SUBJECTS?

No, you cannot. Some of your subjects will be compulsory. These subjects are:

English Language and Literature  
Mathematics  
Religious Education  
Science  
ICT  
Design Technology (you have already decided which aspect of DT you will study)  
Physical Education (General)

The remaining periods will be taken up by options.

## WHAT ABOUT NEW SUBJECTS?

You will find that you have already studied many of the optional subjects during the first three years in school. However, it is almost certain that there will be a number of subjects with which you are NOT familiar. Before you choose, you need to FIND OUT about these new subjects. You will find a summary of each of these courses in this booklet. You can also seek advice about these from the Head of Department for the subject, your Form Tutor or your Head of Learning.

## WHAT SUBJECTS SHOULD I CHOOSE?

That's mainly up to you and your parents, but the following pointers may be helpful:

1. *Which subjects do you like?* You will probably try harder at the subjects you like. You will also gain more enjoyment from doing subjects you enjoy.

2. *Which subjects are you best at?* You may stand a better chance of getting good results in these subjects.

3. *Which subjects do you need?* Do you have an idea of the career you might wish to follow? If so, you may need certain subjects and qualifications. Seek advice from the Careers Connexions Adviser or Mr Harrison (Careers Co-ordinator).

4. *What if you have no career in mind?* Most Year 9 pupils are still undecided about their future plans and many of those who do have some ideas will find their ideas change during the next two years. Therefore, it makes sense to keep as many career options open as possible.

5. *Should I choose the same subjects as my friends?* This is not a good idea. You should choose the subjects that are best for you. You will be studying these subjects for the next two years - this is a long time if you have no real interest in the subject and have just chosen it to be with your friends.

## **WHAT HELP CAN I GET?**

You can get help in lots of ways. Reading this handbook carefully is the place to start. However, there are also many people who may be of assistance to you, including:

1. Your Subject Teachers - they know your strengths and weaknesses in each subject
2. The Heads of Department
3. The Year 9 Pastoral Team (Head of Learning, Learning Coach and Form Tutors)
4. The Deputy Head Teacher (Mr Walker) and Assistant Head Teachers
5. Mr Harrison has details of Careers websites
6. Your parents
7. Advice from the Careers Connexions service

## **REMEMBER**

**YOU NEED TO MAKE WISE CHOICES AT THIS STAGE. CHANGES IN SUBJECTS AFTER SEPTEMBER ARE ALLOWED ONLY IN VERY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH AS HEALTH PROBLEMS (SUPPORTED BY A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE).**

**YOU SHOULD LOOK BEYOND YEAR 11 AND THINK ABOUT CHOICES WHICH WILL OPEN DOORS FOR YOU INTO THE FUTURE.**

GOOD LUCK!

## **SECTION 1: COMPULSORY SUBJECTS**

These subjects are taken by **all** pupils.

Religious Education

English

English Literature

Mathematics

Science

Design Technology

ICT

Physical Education (General)

Please note: Pupils have already made their choice within Design Technology.

# Religious Education

## **Qualification**

GCSE in Religious Studies (Edexcel)

All pupils will follow the Edexcel Syllabus in Religious Studies following paper 'J' in Year 10 and paper 'C' in Year 11.

## **What will I learn about?**

In Year 10, pupils will study key beliefs within the Christian Tradition over 4 units ('J' units). These will cover topics including the Apostles' Creed, Community and Tradition, The Liturgical Year and the Sacraments of the Church, how people 'Live the Christian Life' and different Places of Christian Worship.

In Year 11, pupils will study the effects of Christian belief on our contemporary society over 4 units ('C' units). These will cover topics including reasons why people believe in God or choose to be atheist, matters of life and death (including abortion, contraception and euthanasia), family life (including marriage and homosexuality), social harmony in the UK and religion in the media

## **How is the course structured?**

The GCSE exam is split into two distinct sections, each worth 50% of the overall grade. Pupils will take the exam for the 'J' Units at the end of Year 10 and then the exam for the 'C' Units at the end of Year 11.

Each unit has its own key words and topic areas and lasts between 6 and 8 weeks of school time. A detailed Unit Guide is provided for all pupils, covering Key Words, essential notes and Past Paper Questions.

## **How will my work be assessed?**

All assessment follows the KS4 Departmental Marking Scheme. Pupils record their progress in their Record of Achievement in their RE books – this allows parents to track the progress of their child in specific sections of the course.

Past Paper Questions are set each week from a detailed guide for each unit. At the end of each unit there will be an internal test. These results are used to inform Progress Reports to parents. They may also be used to justify the movement of pupils between different 'setted' groups. A letter outlining the course structure and pupil expectations is also sent home to parents.

External Assessment is 100% by examination – 50% sat at the end of Year 10 (Unit J) and then 50% at the end of Year 11 (Unit C).

### **What can this qualification lead to?**

A GCSE in Religious Studies demonstrates the ability to think critically, evaluate arguments and differing opinions, as well as developing respect, understanding and knowledge of the many faith traditions in multi-cultural Britain today.

It is regarded by employers, colleges and universities as a subject with academic rigour and high-order critical thinking skills. Traditionally it has led to careers in education, law, media, and social work.

# English

## Qualification

GCSE in English (WJEC – Welsh Board).

## What will I learn about?

**English GCSE:** pupils will study all aspects of English under three main sections: Reading, Writing, and Speaking and Listening. Pupils study Shakespeare, work from Different Cultures as well as learning about and writing in different styles of English for different purposes and audiences.

**English Literature:** pupils will study a novel, a play, as well as studying and writing about modern and pre-1900 poetry.

## How is the course structured?

**Year 10** – we focus on completing the English GCSE course and all Year 10 pupils have a chance of taking their English GCSE a year early to enable them to achieve the highest grade possible if they re-take their final exam in the summer of Year 11. In the current Year 11, 67% of pupils have **already** passed English GCSE before they have a final chance to take it in June 2009.

**Year 11** – we focus on the GCSE in English Literature as well as re-visiting the skills and examination techniques employed in both final external examinations.

## How will my work be assessed?

There are two main ways that pupils' work is assessed:

- a) **Internally** – English teachers feed back to pupils on their progress by marking homework, feeding back and offering supportive advice, marking rough drafts of coursework and then finalising a mark for final drafts.
- b) Staff also assess and mark Speaking and Listening performance – although an **external moderator** makes frequent visits to check that our standards are of the highest order.

## **What can these qualifications lead to?**

Clearly a good pass in GCSE in English is a must for all pupils leaving school hoping to embark on a career in the world of work or apply for a place in Sixth Form. An English GCSE, along with a Maths GCSE, is a crucial qualification for students making their way after Year 11. In Sixth Form, a good pass in English and English Literature will enable you to apply to study AS and A2 in English Literature and Combined English A Level.

# MATHEMATICS

## Qualification

GCSE in Mathematics (Edexcel)

## What will I learn about?

Galileo said that 'Mathematics was the language in which God created the universe.' This is because Mathematics can be used to explain why the planets move as they do, why a tree grows in a particular shape and why crystals make such beautiful structures. We use Mathematics to explain and understand the world we live in and to make predictions about what will happen in the future. We use Mathematics to make our banks secure and ensure that people can walk away from car crashes with minimal injury. Mathematics is a problem-solving tool that allows us to develop an understanding of all things in the world we live in.

You will continue to build on the skills learnt at Key Stage 3 covering Number, Algebra, Shape and Space and Handling Data in more detail than previously.

## How is the course structured?

Pupils will take three modular examinations at various times throughout years 10 and 11. Pupils are no longer required to complete any coursework.

## How will my work be assessed?

The three exams that pupils will take are:

UNIT 1 - Handling Data (worth 20% of the final mark).

UNIT 2 - Number, Algebra and Shape 1 (divided into two sections, each counting towards 15% of the final mark).

UNIT 3 - Number, Algebra and Shape 2 (worth 50% of the final mark). This exam is taken at the end of Year 11.

Pupils will be entered at either Higher (grades A\*, A, B, C, D) or Foundation (C, D, E, F, G) level based on their Year 9 performance and teacher assessment.

### **What can this qualification lead to?**

Many careers and courses ask for a GCSE at grade C or above in Mathematics as it demonstrates a basic level of competence in working with numbers and problem solving.

Pupils who are successful at the Higher level are generally encouraged to consider taking Mathematics at A Level in the Sixth Form.

# Science - Core and Additional

Science is a core subject, so all pupils will study science in Years 10 and 11. However, to ensure that pupils have flexibility in the route that they take, the department offers three pathways for pupils to opt for at this stage. It is important for pupils to think carefully about their possible career path beyond GCSE as this will be influenced by the options they take for Year 10.

## Qualification

GCSE in Core science and Additional Science (AQA)

This course is worth TWO GCSEs.

## What will I learn about?

Pupils will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will learn about human biology and evolution, where raw materials come from for our lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and about the universe. There is great emphasis on learning to become responsible citizens, looking after our planet and understanding the implications of being wasteful with our resources.

Pupils will spend time investigating issues relating to the topics in a practical way where appropriate.

## How is the course structured?

Pupils study 6 modules in Year 10 (and a further 3 in Y11) in the subject areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

## How will my work be assessed?

In Year 10, pupils sit multiple choice tests in November, March and June. **Each test is worth 12.5% (6 x 12.5% = 75% of Core Science GCSE).**

The ISA is a 45 minute written test conducted in class. Pupils can have several attempts at different ISAs with the best mark counting. Throughout the course, staff will be continually assessing pupils' practical skills (PSA), a mark for which is added to the ISA. **The coursework element is worth 25%.**

In Y11 there are a further 3 examinations which are taken in January and June (each worth 25%) and a second ISA (worth 25%) – the combined marks will make up the final grade for **Additional Science GCSE**.

## **What can this qualification lead to?**

GCSEs in Core Science and Additional Science naturally lead to A Levels in Biology Chemistry and Physics, which can lead to science-based degrees at university. Pupils can also progress to Applied Science A Level from this course, which is appropriate for people wishing to pursue a career in nursing, engineering, paramedics or other apprenticeships.

This route is designed for pupils who are likely to choose at least one of the sciences (Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics) at A Level. However, the department does recommend that pupils wishing to take AS/A2 Level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics choose the Triple Science pathway of study.

# Science - Applied

## **Qualification**

Double award GCSE in Applied Science (WJEC)

This course is worth TWO GCSEs.

## **What will I learn about?**

There are 3 units of work which cover topics on science that pupils encounter every day as citizens – for example, important scientific processes such as developments in the food industry. Pupils will also learn about basic health and safety, first aid and fire. Unit 2 covers relevant current scientific issues ranging from Chemical structure to DNA profiling to solving crimes. Unit 3 is investigative and pupils will design, carry out and evaluate experiments in Biology, Chemistry and Physics which are then collated into a report.

## **How is the course structured?**

Unit 1 is normally completed towards the end of Year 10. An initial exam is also taken at this stage.

Completion of the remaining tasks takes place in Year 11.

## **How will my work be assessed?**

This course is mainly portfolio-based, which means that each piece of work pupils complete in class can contribute towards their final grade.

The portfolio is worth 66.6% of the overall marks. Unit 1 is submitted to the board in May of Y10 and the final piece in May of Y11. The remaining 33.3% is by examination which is taken initially in June of Y10.

## **What can this qualification lead to?**

Pupils can progress to Applied Science A-Level from this course, which is appropriate for people wishing to pursue a career in nursing, engineering, paramedics or other apprenticeships. Pupils wishing to study separate science subjects at A Level should consider taking either the Core & Additional Science or the Triple Science GCSE courses.



# Science - Triple

## **Qualification**

GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics -Triple Science (AQA)

This course is worth THREE GCSEs. Please note that pupils taking this course will only be able to select one subject from the options choices.

## **What will I learn about?**

Pupils will study the content for the Core and Additional Science course but will also study a third module in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and therefore received a GCSE for each of the three sciences. Pupils will learn about a range of topics from the transport of substances in plants and animals, how our kidneys work to using micro-organisms to produce food, drink and fuels in Biology. They will learn about the development of the periodic table, what makes acids and alkalis acidic and alkaline to calculating the energy in various chemical reactions in Chemistry. They will learn about the turning effect and how planets, moons and satellites remain in orbit and about the effect prisms and lenses have on light in physics.

## **How is the course structured?**

In Year 10, pupils will study modules in Biology 1 (a & b), Chemistry 1 (a & b) and Physics 1 (a & b). They will then begin their work on module 2 in each of the sciences towards the end of Year 10 and finish in January of Year 11.

Finally in Year 11, pupils will then progress on to the final modules of Biology 3, Chemistry 3 and Physics 3.

## **How will my work be assessed?**

Each of the three modules (for each of the separate science subjects) is assessed by exam, which is worth 25% of the overall marks for each of the subjects (ie: 3 blocks of 25%, making 75% of the marks for each individual subject).

In addition to this, pupils will complete separate coursework for Biology, Chemistry and Physics – this makes up the remaining 25% of the marks for each of the subjects.

### **What can this qualification lead to?**

Pupils opting for the separate sciences (Triple Award) are those that are likely to want to study two or more sciences at A Level (Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics). However, this does not preclude pupils with a keen interest and ability for the subject choosing this pathway even if they do not wish to study science beyond Year 11.

This is the route that pupils should take if they have aspirations of continuing their studies in university for veterinary science, medicine, pure sciences, dentistry or other science-related subjects.

# INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

## Qualification

OCR Nationals Level 2 in ICT

This course is offered by the OCR examinations board. It has been developed to recognise learners' skills, knowledge and understanding of Information and Communication Technology functions, environments and operations. The course is worth up to two GCSEs upon the completion of the 3 units of study.

## What will I learn about?

During the 2 years you will carry out a range of tasks that have been designed to recognise your achievements in a modern, practical way that is relevant to the workplace. You will develop your skills using a range of software applications including Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint in order to complete a given task. You will complete three assessed units in which you learn a number of Key ICT skills. This is a practical course and all units of study are based on a company or organisation, which makes the course relevant to today's fast-paced world of ICT. Pupils produce a portfolio of evidence for each unit, making this course 100% coursework.

## How the course is structured:

You will complete 3 units of study over the 2 years. They are:

### Unit 1: ICT Skills for Business

By completing this unit you will develop the ability to create files in different software packages, including word processing or DTP, spreadsheet, database and presentation software. You will communicate effectively using email and will search the internet efficiently for information.

Candidates will be able to show that they understand:

- Good working practices, including the organisation of files using appropriate file and directory/folder names and the regular backing up of files
- Features of email software
- Methods of searching for information on the internet
- Methods of integrating different types of files into a document or presentation
- The appropriate software to use for different tasks
- Methods of storing, retrieving and analysing data



## Unit 2: Desktop Publishing

By completing this unit you will develop a thorough knowledge and understanding of the process of planning, drafting, developing and creating a DTP document to meet the needs of a target audience. You will develop your graphics manipulation skills to edit and develop a series of images for inclusion in your DTP document, as well as create a simple graphic using the graphic tools available in DTP packages.

Candidates will be able to:

- Plan a document to meet a given brief
- Create and apply style sheets
- Use graphics tools to create basic shapes
- Develop images for inclusion in a completed document
- Prepare publications for final print.

## Unit 3: Webpage Creating

By completing this unit you will develop knowledge relating to the planning and creation of a multimedia website that is fit for purpose. You will develop the skills to plan, design and implement a simple website using appropriate software. You will develop an understanding of common concepts and features relating to the creation of WebPages, webpage formatting and website structure. In addition, you will be able to format the pages to create a house style, including creating hyperlinks, tables and forms. You will also develop skills to include interactive elements, where appropriate.

Candidates will be able to:

- Design a multimedia website
- Create a multimedia website
- Create hyperlinks
- Create interactive elements
- Create a user form for capturing user feedback
- Test a website and act on the findings
- Evaluate a website they have created.

## **How will my work be assessed?**

During the 2 years you will be asked to undertake a number of tasks to achieve success in the units. You will save your work into a paper based portfolio, which will be stored in your network area. These portfolios are internally assessed, then externally verified by a visiting moderator sent by OCR.

## **What can this qualification lead to?**

The main aim of the course is to develop in the students the skills needed to go on to further study or employment in ICT. For example, at SJP we offer a number of courses in the Sixth Form. Equally you will be taught skills and gain a recognised qualification that will help you if you move on to employment after Year 11.

# INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

## Qualification

CIDA - Certificate in Digital Applications (Edexcel)

This course is worth TWO GCSEs at grade C (or above).

## What will I learn about?

In each Unit you will deal with a real life case study based on a company or industry, which makes this a practical course with clear outcomes.

You will learn how to use and develop further your skills in a variety of software:

- Scanners,
- Databases,
- Internet and Intranet,
- E-Mail,
- Presentations,
- Spreadsheets,
- Animation,
- Word Processing, and
- Web Page Design.

## How is the course structured?

To achieve the Certificate (CIDA), you need to take and pass two units, one in each year. In each unit you will learn to manage and present your work in an e-portfolio, making this a virtually paper-free course. The CIDA course is a two-year course and you will complete one unit in each of the years. The units are:

### **UNIT 1: Using ICT**

We live in an age of information overload – TV, radio, text-messaging, web and e-mail, telephone, video, DVD and CD- to say nothing of newspapers, magazines and face to face conversations. The question is how do we manage all the information that we receive? And how do we judge its usefulness? After this how can we present it clearly and effectively so it communicates the message that we want it to convey to others? These are all issues addressed during this Unit, which will also teach you how to critically evaluate your own work, and the work of others. In this unit you will use a real life case study and will need to complete a variety of tasks. You will need to use your knowledge of ICT to carefully select the correct software and method

to achieve an appropriate outcome.

## **UNIT 2: Multimedia**

When you browse a website, play a video game, send a text message, download music or watch a DVD, you are using multimedia. This unit will help you to learn how to design and produce your own multimedia products, as well as taking a critical look at those products that already exist. You will collect and produce music, images, photographs and video clips and put them together to create something new. You will also learn the importance of managing and reviewing your work and testing what you produce, as well as thinking about how it could be distributed. Once again the tasks that you will be asked to produce work for are based on a real life situation and will allow you to develop many new skills. In this unit you will learn to use software applications such as Fireworks, Flash and Movie-Maker, which you will have been introduced to in Key Stage 3.

### **How will my work be assessed?**

The CIDA course is assessed internally with Edexcel moderating the work externally. All work is submitted electronically through an E-Portfolio and is completely coursework based. Unlike traditional GCSE subjects, it is marked on a scale from Pass to Distinction with each level being the equivalent of a GCSE grade. The following shows the grades:

<b>CIDA Mark</b>	<b>GCSE Equivalent</b>
Pass	C
Credit	B
Merit	A
Distinction	A*

### **What can this qualification lead to?**

The main aim of the course is to develop in the students the skills needed to go on to further study or employment in ICT. At SJP we offer a number of courses in the Sixth Form and successful completion of CIDA will enable you to follow these. Equally, you will be taught the skills and gain a recognised qualification that will help you if you move on to employment after Year 11.

# GENERAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## Qualification

During one unit of work, all pupils will follow a leadership block of work. This will develop pupils' self confidence, communication and organisational skills. Pupils will have extensive opportunities to develop these skills and will work with younger pupils, including primary pupils, to plan and lead sessions and activities.

The leadership awards that we currently offer are:

- Sports Leaders (Level 1)
- Dance Leaders Award (Level 1)
- Junior Football Organisers Award (Level 1)
- Netball Leaders Award (Level 1)

## How is the course structured?

As a compulsory subject, all pupils will continue with PE throughout Years 10 and 11. Pupils in Year 10 currently receive 4 hours of PE per fortnight and pupils in Year 11 currently receive 3 hours of PE per fortnight.

The PE curriculum is designed according to National Curriculum Objectives and will allow pupils to select activities from various options. Pupils will continue to be assessed in a variety of roles (the performer, the official and analysis work) as in Key Stage 3.

## How will my work be assessed?

The awards are accredited which means that pupils will be assessed throughout the courses and, on successful completion, will receive a certificate and become a Young Leader in that specific award. The aim is to allow every pupil to leave SJP with a sport-specific leadership qualification.

## What can these qualifications lead to?

These awards are highly regarded by universities and employers as they recognise the importance of these life skills. They are a foundation which can be built upon through voluntary experience in the College and in primary

schools. Pupils will have opportunities to progress on to further leadership awards in Sixth Form.

## **SECTION 2: OPTIONS SUBJECTS**

- Art & Design
- Business Studies
- French
- Geography
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Music
- Music Technology
- Performing Arts
- Physical Education

# Art and Design

## Qualification

GCSE Art & Design (AQA)

There are two GCSE courses offered that students may choose from. These are:

Art & Design (Fine Art)  
Art & Design (General)

## What will I learn about?

**Art & Design (Fine Art)** - This course offers pupils the opportunity to explore a range of traditional and contemporary Fine Art practices and involves working with primarily two dimensional media. Such mediums are likely to include drawing, painting, mixed media (including collage/montage assemblage) and printmaking.

**Art & Design (General)** - This course is likely to include all of the above but will in addition involve working with three-dimensional materials and incorporate aspects of Graphic Design.

Both courses will involve pupils exploring the applications of both new technologies and historical and contemporary art practice within their work. All pupils will be encouraged to develop their knowledge and understanding of how to:

- communicate personal ideas through their work
- utilise relevant art media, materials, and processes to express those original ideas
- research art from their own and other cultures to assist with their own progression
- acquire a command of specialist artistic vocabulary and an insight into the value and significance of art in society

## How are the courses structured?

Both courses are made up of two units of work.

UNIT 1 : PORTFOLIO OF WORK ( 60%)

- Pupils must produce and submit for assessment a selection of work representative of their course of study
- This must contain work from at least two projects

- The work from each project will be marked as a whole

## UNIT 2 : EXTERNALLY SET TASK ( 40%)

- Question papers containing a selection of 'Starting Points' are set by the examination board and issued to candidates
- Pupils are given a preliminary period of time to research and plan for the production of either a single response to their chosen Starting Point, or a series of responses.
- Pupils then produce their personal response during a 10 Hour supervised examination

### **How will my work be assessed?**

Both units are marked by the College and moderated by the examination board. Assessment is based on four Assessment Objectives which are designed to measure pupils' progression in terms of their development of Knowledge and Understanding. All four are equally weighted and are as follows:

- Developing Ideas Through Investigation Of Art And Culture
- Refining Ideas Through Experimenting With Media And Techniques
- Recording Ideas And Observations
- Presenting A Personal Response

### **What can this qualification lead to?**

Advances in new technologies have served to increase opportunities within the broad field of Art and Design. A qualification in Art provides a stepping stone to an expanding number of exciting careers. Creative young people with artistic flair and skills will always be in demand and there are plenty of employment opportunities available.

Qualifications in GCSE and A Level Art provide a stepping stone for pupils to access many courses in Higher Education. Art is also a subject from which pupils can obtain a great deal of personal gratification. It can be for them spiritually uplifting and provide an experience of lasting lifetime significance.

No matter where pupils' career aspirations lie, Art remains a subject from which all pupils can derive an enriching life-long experience. The Art department welcomes anyone who enjoys the subject and wants to learn, irrespective of ability.

# **Business Studies**

## **Qualification**

Level 2 National Award in Business (OCR)

This course is equivalent to TWO GCSEs at grade C (or above)

## **What will I learn about?**

If you are looking for a career in business and want to develop skills and understanding that are directly relevant to the business world, then this qualification is for you.

The course has been designed to accredit candidates' achievement in a modern and practical way. The course will help build the skills, knowledge and understanding of business needed both to continue studying and to start work. You will have the opportunity to investigate various areas of the business sector using essential IT skills to help research and present your work using a range of software. The skills and experience you will receive are vital to succeed in the business environment, thereby enhancing your employability within the business sector.

## **How is the course structured?**

To achieve this qualification you must complete a total of 3 units:

### **Unit 1: Investigating Business**

This unit will help you to understand how businesses organise themselves in order to meet their aims and objectives. You will explore businesses that produce a range of different goods/services and find out how business activities are changing in the UK as a whole. You will explore a wide range of factors such as: how businesses decide to choose locations; the importance of considering ethical issues through the views of various stakeholders (e.g. the production of goods and services without harming the environment) and strategies used by firms to help them remain competitive.

### **Unit 4: Communication in Business**

In this unit, the task is based on an actual business case study and has been designed to help you demonstrate and develop your knowledge of the different types of communication methods used in business. You will conduct research and collect evidence in order to analyse the impact ICT has had on communication.

## **Unit 12: Career Planning for Business**

This unit is all about careers and planning for your future. It looks at the variety of careers available, the help that is available to you, what skills you require and how to go about getting the job you want. You will look at the recruitment process from the time the vacancy occurs to the interview – all from your viewpoint, that is you as the job applicant.

You will assess your own personal skills and achievements by undertaking a personal career assessment that matches suitable career areas to your interests and skills. Subsequently, you will follow the recruitment process for a specific job that you choose by identifying a suitable job advertisement, completing a curriculum vitae and written application for the post. Finally, you will participate in a job interview where you will receive feedback and evaluate your own performance in order to improve your chances of getting a job in one of these career areas.

### **How will my work be assessed?**

There are no timetabled exams for this qualification. Instead, all units are assessed by SJP staff and then externally moderated by the exam board.

For each unit you will produce a portfolio of work following a 'Candidate Checklist' to ensure you provide evidence for ALL tasks.

### **What can this qualification lead to?**

The course will help build your skills, knowledge and understanding of business needed to follow one of the possible progression routes:

- Further or Higher education for further study
- Employment in a business-related role.
- Work towards occupational and work-related qualifications in business.

Every student will end up working in a business of one kind or another and that is why Business Studies is so useful.

# French

## **QUALIFICATION**

GCSE French (AQA)

## **What will I learn about?**

Did you know that 75% of the world's population do not speak English?

You will learn to use four main aspects of essential skills in communication in French (and, indeed, in any language): Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

During the course you will cover four modules: Lifestyle, Leisure, Home & Environment and Work & Education

## **How is the course structured?**

Two modules will be covered in Year 10 and a further two in Year 11. Listening and Reading tests are each worth 20% of the overall marks, whereas Speaking and Writing are each worth 30%. To help you with this:

- You will be able to have recordings of listening materials to take home so you can practise your listening skills on your own.
- You will have access to internet materials to further your learning.
- You will spend regular time with the language assistant to build up your confidence when speaking

## **How will my work be assessed?**

In your French GCSE all four areas of Listening, Speaking Reading and Writing will be assessed.

The Reading and Listening units of the GCSE are assessed in separate exams. It is possible that candidates will sit both of these units in June of Year 10, with the opportunity of taking them again in January of Year 11 in an attempt to achieve the highest overall grade possible.

The Speaking unit consists of two tasks marked by your teacher and moderated by the board. The test includes two tasks in the form of a conversation which can be perfected in advance. For the Writing unit students will complete two pieces of work done under controlled conditions. Examples of possible topics include 'A day in the life of a celebrity' or 'An article for the school newsletter.'

## **What can this qualification lead to?**

A GCSE in French is extremely useful for a variety of jobs, not just teaching or translating; for example, you might use these skills in careers such as tourism, web design, medicine, engineering or ICT. If you are thinking you would like a career in any of these fields, or you just want to keep your options open for the future - a GCSE in languages may be just what you need!

A qualification in a language will always look good on a CV whether you use the language in the course of your work or not, as it tells potential employers and colleges that you can use the four essential skills for communication.

# Geography

## Qualification

GCSE in Geography (WJEC)

## What will I learn about?

“Geography puts the knowing into seeing and makes sense of the world.”

Geography develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live today. Topics are chosen from a range of physical and human options explored through relevant case studies in their own world and the fast changing world around them. Geography encourages pupils to ask questions about the world they live in, process ideas and evaluate key global issues. Geography pupils are given the opportunity to develop opinions, assess the reliability of evidence and communicate ideas and information in a variety of formats.

Pupils can expect to experience a variety of teaching techniques from debate, group work, the enquiry process, thinking skills and role-play. They will also see Geography brought to life through ICT. Pupils will have numerous opportunities to take part in extra-curricular activities within the subject, focusing on fieldwork and geographical skills. The department presently leads a number of fieldtrips in the local area and to the Lake District. This permits pupils to carry out primary data collection and experience elements of Core Geography in a real world setting.

## How is the course structured?

In Year 10, pupils will study **Paper 1 – Core Geography**.

The themes for this paper are:

- River processes and management.
- Climate Change
- Plate Tectonics – Earthquakes and Volcanoes.
- Changing Population
- Globalisation
- Development

In Year 11, pupils will study **Paper 2 – Options Geography**.

Three topics from the list below are selected and studied:

- Coasts
- Weather and climate.
- Living things.
- Tourism
- Retail and Urban Change
- Economic change and Wales

In addition, pupils will undertake a Controlled Assessments in Fieldwork Enquiry and Problem-Solving.

The Fieldwork Enquiry is a narrowly-focused task based on fieldwork and supportive secondary data and presented as a short report with illustrative data.

The Problem-Solving/Decision-Making research exercise is based on classroom teaching and individual research. Pupils may choose the mode of presentation (for example a newspaper article, a Power Point presentation, a Photo Story, essay or oral presentation).

### **How will my work be assessed?**

**Paper 1 – Core Geography:** One exam (worth 40% of the overall marks) available at both Foundation and Higher Tiers

**Paper 2 – Options Geography:** One exam (worth 35% of the overall marks) available at both Foundation and Higher Tiers

**Controlled Assessments: Fieldwork Enquiry** (worth 10% of the overall marks) and **Problem Solving** (worth 15% of the overall marks)

### **What can this qualification lead to?**

Geography develops skills in literacy, numeracy, ICT, problem solving, teamwork and thinking skills. Pupils can go on to study Geography or Travel and Tourism at A Level and beyond.

In addition, the subject arms pupils with important skills that are transferable in the ever-changing and competitive workplace. Pupils develop the ability to think analytically, gather relevant information, evaluate facts and apply their own point of view. Future careers can include a wide range of sectors including scientific research, health care, social work, accountancy, retail, teaching, business and finance, journalism, marketing/sales and advertising, as well as town planning and the travel and tourism industry.

# Health and Social Care

## Qualification

Double Award GCSE Health & Social Care (Edexcel)

This course is worth TWO GCSEs.

## What will I learn about?

If you are interested in and want to ultimately work with people, this may be the course for you. Some pupils already have an interest in working with children or want to care for and help others. The GCSE course gives you the background knowledge and develops the skills needed by anybody considering working with people.

## How is the course structured?

The course is divided into four units.

Unit 1: Understanding Personal Development and Relationships.

Unit 2: Exploring Health, Social Care and Early Years Provision.

Unit 3: Promoting Health and Wellbeing.

Unit 4: Health and Social Care and Early Years in Practice.

You will:

- Learn through investigation
- Develop knowledge and understanding about health and social care and early years.
- Complete practical work.
- Learn about and understand the world you live in.
- Be able to design a health plan.
- Research occupations you may want to work in.

## **How will my work be assessed?**

Unit 1: GCSE written examination: 1 ¼ hours (20% of overall marks)

Unit 2: Controlled assessment, internally assessed and externally moderated (30% of overall marks)

Unit 3: Controlled assessment based on pre-release material; internally assessed and externally moderated (30% of overall marks)

Unit 4: GCSE written examination: 1 ¼ hours (20% of overall marks)

## **What can this qualification lead to?**

This course is ideal preparation for progression to more detailed study of Health and Social Care and Early Years. This could be an A Level course or a BTEC National qualification. Some students may complete the course and progress to working or training in a specialised area of the Health, Social Care and Early Years fields.

# History

## Qualification

GCSE in History (OCR)

## What will I learn about?

*“Those who ignore History are condemned to repeat it”*

History allows pupils to gain knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live today. Topics are chosen for their relevance to modern society and links to events taking place all around the world. History encourages pupils to think independently and to ask questions and make judgements. History pupils train their minds to assemble, organise and present facts and opinions.

Pupils will encounter a variety of teaching techniques from role-play to discussion and debate to group work and personal reflection. They will also see the subject brought to life through ICT. Pupils will have numerous opportunities to take part in extra-curricular activities such as theatre visits to see “Hitler on Trial,” revision conferences and overseas visits. For example, next year a group of GCSE and A Level students will be visiting Poland and Germany. Pupils will also get the chance to explore local History through the study of 1950’s and 60’s British Popular Culture with case studies on pop groups such as *The Beatles*.

## How is the course structured?

The GCSE History course is divided into two examinations and two pieces of controlled assessment (coursework):

In Year 10, pupils will study **Paper 1 – International Relations and USA 1919-41:**

### **International Relations: The Cold War 1945-75**

- Europe after World War Two
- Nuclear Arms Race
- Space Race
- Korean War
- Berlin Wall
- Cuban Missile Crisis
- Vietnam War

### **USA 1919-41**

- 1920s Economic Boom
- Red Scare
- Immigration Policy
- Ku Klux Klan
- Prohibition
- Gangsters
- Wall Street Crash
- The Great Depression

In Year 11, pupils will study **Paper 2 – Britain 1939 – 75**

- Britain in World War Two
- Changing Role of Women
- Women's Liberation Movement
- Social Change – eg: The National Health Service
- Immigration to the UK
- Youth Revolution
- 1950s/60s Music, Film, Fashion etc.

In addition, pupils will complete a Controlled Assessment about **Nazi Germany 1933-45**, concentrating on important individuals (eg: Adolf Hitler) and key events (eg: Kristallnacht).

### **How will my work be assessed?**

- Paper 1 – examination (worth 45% of overall marks) taken at the end of Year 10
- Paper 2 - examination (worth 30% of overall marks) taken at the end of Year 11
- Controlled Assessment (worth 25% of overall marks)

### **What can this qualification lead to?**

Pupils have the opportunity to continue their studies in this subject at A Level and beyond. History is an excellent preparation for very many jobs such as management, business consultancy and positions in local and central government. Famous people such as Jonathan Ross, Ali G, Anita Roddick (founder of the Body Shop) and Chris Martin (Coldplay) all studied History.

# MUSIC

## Qualification

GCSE in Music (Edexcel)

## What will I learn about?

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

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

- involves performing
- involves listening to all kinds of music
- involves composing or arranging music
- gives you the opportunity to play music with others in e.g. rock groups, bands, orchestras or local choirs
- gives you the opportunity to learn more about and use music technology

You will improve your skills in performing and composing different types of music. You will listen to a wide variety of music and learn more about how and why it was written and/or performed.

## How is the course structured?

The course is split into three sections:

1. Performing (worth 30% of the overall marks – split between solo and ensemble performance)
2. Composing (worth 30% of the overall marks - two pieces each worth 15%)
3. Listening and appraising (a written exam worth 40% of the overall marks)

## **How will my work be assessed?**

There is one exam in the summer of Year 11. You will listen to a CD and answer questions on the four Areas of Study which cover popular music, classical music and music from around the world.

In addition, you will perform (play, sing or sequence) two pieces in total. One of the pieces will be a solo in any style and on any instrument. These performances may take place in the classroom, in school music groups or outside school. They will be recorded and marked by your teacher.

You will also compose two pieces according to a brief. These will be in a form or style that you have chosen from a list which includes the 12 bar blues, reggae, African drumming, variations, rondo, experimental or electronic music and club dance remix. If you like, you could write a song for a musical.

## **What can this qualification lead to?**

GCSE Music is a good preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for the AS/A Levels in Music and Music Technology as well as BTEC National Diplomas (in Music, Popular Music and Music Technology) and the new A Level in Performing Arts.

You may of course wish to study GCSE Music for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest. Alternatively, you may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of music or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in the music industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.

# Music Technology

## Qualification

BTEC First Certificate in Music and Music Technology (Edexcel)

This course is equivalent to TWO GCSEs at grade C (or above).

## What will I learn about?

BTEC Music and Music Technology is about making and producing music using different technologies. You will work on three units which cover composing, producing and performing, although you do not have to do all three aspects yourself. You can produce music that the computer or another player performs.

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

- involves performing
- involves listening to all kinds of music
- involves composing or arranging music
- gives you the opportunity to play music with others in e.g. rock groups, bands, orchestras or local choirs
- gives you the opportunity to learn more about and use music technology, producing and sequencing music
- involves directing performances

You will improve your skills in performing and composing different types of music. You will listen to a wide variety of music and learn more about how and why it was written and/or performed.

## How is the course structured?

The course is split into three units. The first unit is compulsory:

Unit 1 - Will allow learners to apply skills, knowledge and understanding particular to their specialised discipline through the planning, preparation and/or rehearsal towards a showcase of their work in the form of a public event or an audio CD.

Then as a group pupils will chose **two** other units from the following:

- Exploring the Music Profession
- Solo Musical Performance
- Exploring Musical Composition
- Developing as a Musical Performer
- Working as a Musical Ensemble
- Introducing DJ Technology
- Rehearsal Techniques for Musicians
- Producing a Musical Recording
- Understanding Music
- Exploring Computer Systems Used by Musicians
- Exploring Musical Improvisation
- The Musical World
- Exploring an Area of Music

### **How will my work be assessed?**

There are no exams as all work is assessed by coursework. You will have coursework for each unit of work. This will include plans, recordings and compositions.

### **What can this qualification lead to?**

BTEC Music is a good preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for the AS/A Levels in Music and Music Technology as well as BTEC National Diplomas (in Music, Popular Music and Music Technology) and the new Vocational A Level in Performing Arts.

You may wish to take this course for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest.

Alternatively, you may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of music or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in the music industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.

# Performing Arts

## **Qualification**

BTEC Level 2 First Certificate in Performing Arts – Acting

This course is equivalent to TWO GCSEs at grade C (and above)

## **What will I learn about?**

In the Acting Unit you will work as part of a Theatre Company to put on two plays for a live audience. Within this unit you will learn how to develop skills as an actor and observe live performances by professional theatre companies.

This course is designed to help young people learn new skills in creating and performing.

Pupils will learn about the world of drama by working within their own Theatre Company and producing plays. Pupils will reflect on the work created in an Actor's Diary, Video of Rehearsals and a variety of worksheets throughout the course

## **How is the course structured?**

This is a practical based subject with written evidence collected in the form of a portfolio. There are 3 units spread across the two years, including elements of performance as part of the Theatre Company.

## **How will my work be assessed?**

All work is assessed by SJP staff and covers the full range of activities, including performances and the written evidence from pupils' portfolios.

An external verifier will also visit the College and sample some of the completed work.

## **What can this qualification lead to?**

This course prepares pupils for Further and Higher Education and employment. For example, it may lead to pupils studying Performing Arts at A Level. Pupils may also go on to study the subject at university or specialist colleges, or perhaps go on to work in the entertainment industry. The course may also be a good choice for those who just wish to develop their confidence through Performing Arts or have a passion for performing.

# Physical Education

## Qualification

BTEC First Certificate in Sport (Edexcel)

This course is equivalent to TWO GCSEs at grade C (or above).

## What will I learn about?

### **The Body in Sport**

This unit focuses on anatomy and physiology. Pupils will learn about the skeletal system, muscular system, circulatory system, respiratory system and energy systems and their relation to various sporting activities.

### **Planning and Leading Sports Activities**

This unit will run parallel to the leadership awards being followed in core PE. Pupils will learn the skills, qualities and responsibilities of a good sports leader and will compare effective sports leaders. Pupils will also have to plan and lead activity sessions and will work as a group to plan, organise and lead a mini sports festival. Local primary pupils will be invited to take part in a specific sporting activity and pupils will take on a variety of leadership roles during the festival. Assignments in this unit will also focus on pupils reviewing their leadership skills and identifying strengths and targets to improve.

### **Practical Sport**

During this unit, pupils will follow a variety of team and individual sporting activities. Pupils will not only be assessed on their performance in activities but on their ability to lead warm ups, skills and games. Pupils will develop extensive knowledge of the rules and scoring systems and will also be expected to take on the role of the official. The unit will include many analysis opportunities, allowing pupils to observe and evaluate performance of themselves and others.

## How is the course structured?

The BTEC award is run over two years and content is broken down into three units:

Unit 1: The Body in Sport

Unit 5: Planning and Leading Sports Activities

Unit 6: Practical Sport

## **How will my work be assessed?**

All units are assessed through coursework completion. There is NO final written examination. Each unit has a number of assignments to complete in order to fulfil the individual unit requirements. All assignments are awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction level based on the standard and level of the completed work. Each individual assignment must be completed to at least a Pass level in order to pass the whole unit.

On successful completion of all units, points are added and an overall level is awarded for the course. The details below show the GCSE equivalent grade boundaries:

Overall PASS = 2 C grades  
Overall MERIT = 2 B grades  
Overall DISTINCTION = 2 A grades  
Overall DISTINCTION \* = 2 A\* grades

## **What can this qualification lead to?**

Following a BTEC programme is an exciting way to study. It gives you the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding that you will need in the world of work and university. BTECs are different from GCSEs in their approach to the course of study: a BTEC puts you more in charge of your own learning, and there are no exams. Instead you will complete assignments based on learning outcomes. Each assignment will have a deadline, so you will need to be organised and have a mature attitude towards independent learning.

On successful completion of this course, you may wish to study BTEC National in Sixth Form. This is the equivalent to a A' Level and will look at six different units in detail, including new topics such as fitness and training. This could lead to Higher Education or further training and employment in areas such as sports science, physical education, leisure services and coaching.