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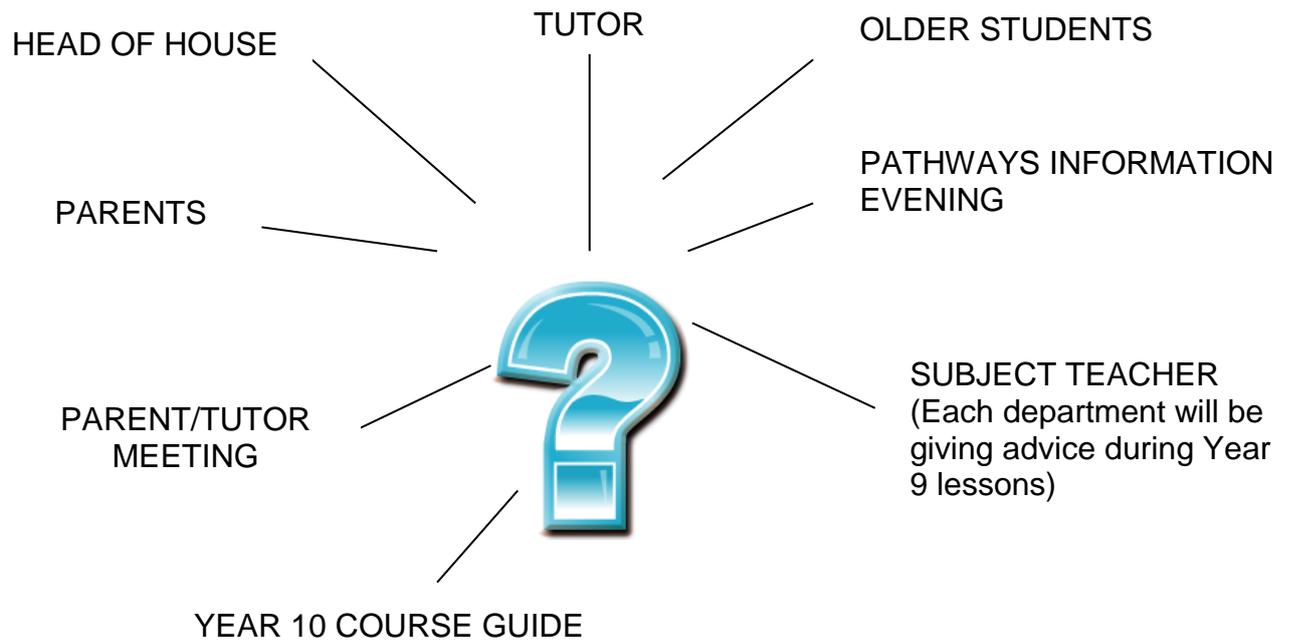
## INTRODUCTION

Our KS4 curriculum is designed to provide a range of Learning Pathways to enable every student to tailor their programme to their strengths, interests and future aspirations.

Choosing these options can be daunting, but the timeline outlined this evening is the start of a supportive process where every student can continue in a broad and balanced education.

An explanation of all the qualifications and the option blocks are found later in this booklet.

Tonight is the start of the decision making process and is part of the advice available from:



## The Learning Pathways Programme

Our Learning Pathways have been carefully constructed to respond to the needs, talents and aspirations of every student at Downend School.

All students will follow the statutory national curriculum consisting of compulsory subjects at examination and non- examination level. In addition to this students will follow one of three Personalised Learning Pathways:

### Yellow Pathway

### Blue Pathway

### Red Pathway

*Please note: Details about the courses are subject to change. Where some options are under subscribed the School reserves the right to withdraw them from the timetable. Whilst we make every effort to meet student needs the School cannot guarantee that a particular course will run.*

### Yellow Pathway

This Pathway has been designed for students who are predicted GCSE grade 4 or above in English and Mathematics, and are working at Level 5 or above across the rest of the curriculum, and at 5a or above in French. If you wish to opt for Triple Science, you will need to be predicted grade 6 or above in Science. If you wish to opt for Engineering, you will need to be predicted grade 5 or above in Mathematics.

### Blue Pathway

This Pathway has been designed for students predicted GCSE grade 3 or 4 in English and Mathematics, and are working at Level 4 or 5 across the curriculum. If you wish to opt for Engineering, you will need to be predicted grade 5 or above in Mathematics.

### Red Pathway

This Pathway has been designed for students requiring specialist provision.

Students will be individually invited to be part of the Red Pathway provision.

## TIMESCALE FOR DECISIONS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Week beginning 29 February 2016  | • Year 9 Assembly: Pathways Process                                  |
| Thursday 3 March 2016  | • Pathways Information Evening                                       |
| Wednesday 23 & Thursday 24 March 2016<br>23 March – 4pm - 7pm<br>24 March – 8.45am - 12.45pm | • Individual Staff/Pathway<br>Consultation Days (Academic<br>Review) |

It is intended that the completed options forms are submitted at the time of your individual appointments on 23 or 24 March.

*These appointments can be made on our online booking system  
(booking opens Monday, 14 March)*

Option Blocks: Year 10 2016/17

Pathway	Core	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
<b>Yellow</b>	English Language English Literature Maths Science (Combined or Triple) PSHCE Core PE	French	History Geography	Food Preparation and Nutrition DT Graphics DT Textiles DT Electronics DT RM Engineering (BTEC) Triple Science Physical Education (GCSE)	Art Computing Drama Geography German Music Religious Studies
<b>Blue</b>	English Language English Literature Maths Science (Combined) PSHCE Core PE	Progress onto Work	History Geography	Food Preparation and Nutrition DT Graphics DT Textiles DT Electronics DT RM Engineering (BTEC) Physical Education (GCSE)	Art Computing Drama Geography Music Religious Studies
<b>Red</b>	English & Literacy Maths & Numeracy Core PE	Science	Technology	ASDAN XL	

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** AQA

Students will study 2 separate GCSE qualifications. English Language GCSE and English Literature GCSE

### AQA ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE

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

The course develops skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening through work on a wide range of texts and tasks.

#### **How will I be taught?**

Through shared study of texts, class discussion, individual assignments, group and paired activities

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

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing: written exam of 1 hour 45 minutes that is worth 50% of the GCSE. Section A: **Reading** one literature text. Section B: **Writing** descriptive or narrative text.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives: written exam 1 hour 45 minutes that is worth 50% of the GCSE. Section A: Reading one non-fiction text and one literary text non-fiction text. Section B: Writing to present a viewpoint.

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken language. Presenting and responding to questions and feedback using Standard English. Teacher marked and assessed. (0% weighting of GCSE)

Grade descriptors for GCSEs graded 9 to 1: English Language.

### AQA ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

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

The course requires the detailed study of a Shakespeare play, the 19<sup>th</sup>- century novel, modern texts, and poetry with some unseen poetry.

#### **How will I be taught?**

Through shared study of texts, class discussion, individual assignments, group and paired activities

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

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> century novel. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 40% of GCSE.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry. Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes and is worth 60% of GCSE.

Grade descriptors for GCSEs graded 9 to 1: English Literature.

## **MATHS GCSE**

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** AQA

This course is designed to be studied over 3 years and as such students have already started the GCSE in year 9. The pathway is tailored to the abilities of each student to ensure that everyone achieves the best possible result.

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

The course comprises 5 strands of Mathematics: Number, Statistics & Probability, Ratio, Geometry & Measure and Algebra. In each strand you will study mathematical techniques, learn how to interpret and communicate mathematically and apply your knowledge to solve non-routine problems. Regular assessments will be taken to track progress.

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

Three 90 minute examinations are taken at the end of Year 11; two calculator papers and a non-calculator paper. Each paper counts for one third of the GCSE and can cover topics from any of the 5 strands. The papers are of equal weighting and are sat at either Foundation or Higher tier. All content is assessed in these papers.

## SCIENCE

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** AQA

Students will be guided towards the best possible course for them based on KS3 results. There are only two options for KS4 Science: the Combined Science qualification which is the equivalent of 2 GCSEs or Separate Sciences which will be three separate GCSEs.

All the science courses focus on 'How Science Works' by engaging pupils in up to date and relevant examples, but this is then assessed in different ways. Students can go on to study 'A' levels from either of these courses. For those students wishing to continue on to careers in science or who just love science 'Triple Science' is an excellent choice.

### **COMBINED SCIENCE: Trilogy**

This course is the equivalent of 2 GCSEs and two grades will be awarded. It covers Chemistry, Physics and Biology and will be assessed by 6 exams (2 x 1hour 15 min in each subject) at the end of Year 11.

There is no coursework element of this course. **This is a Draft Specification and there may be changes to it before it is approved by OFQUAL.**

### **TRIPLE AWARD: GCSE BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS**

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

The course extends the range of science covered by Combined Science. This enables you to achieve separate GCSEs in Biology, Physics and Chemistry, each with its own grade.

#### **How will I be taught?**

You will be taught by two specialist teachers and activities will be varied. These will include discussion, demonstrations, video clips and practical investigations, producing written reports and answering written questions.

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

For each of the GCSEs there will be two exams (6 x 1hour 45 min in total). There is no coursework element of these courses. **This is a Draft Specification and there may be changes to it before it is approved by OFQUAL.**

## **CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Although not examined all students in Years 10 and 11 follow a core PE programme. This gives students the opportunity to participate in physical activities conducive to a healthy lifestyle. Students are given some choice in the activities they participate in through selecting a pathway that they will follow throughout the year.

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

Students will choose from a range of activities:

- Games – invasion, net, striking and fielding
- Fitness based activities
- Leadership based units

### **How will I be taught?**

Students will be expected to undertake a variety of roles within these lessons and show understanding of the principles involved. Students are expected to participate in every lesson either as a performer or as a coach or official if excused.

## **PSHCE**

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Careers and Economic) education is a planned, developmental programme of learning through which children and young people acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives now and in the future. (*The PSHE Association, 2014*)

PSHCE education at Downend has been designed to equip our students with an understanding of the wider world and to enjoy and manage their lives both during and after leaving our school. We aim to give our students accurate and relevant knowledge intertwined with the opportunity to develop their personal skills, so they become active and responsible citizens.

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

At Downend we have broken down the PSHCE curriculum into five themes; Relationships, Risk, Diversity, Health and Finance & Careers. Within these themes we cover a wide and diverse range of topics including e-safety, personal hygiene, healthy relationships, crime, consent, how to write a CV and gender stereotyping.

*Full details of the courses are available and parents who are anxious about aspects of the curriculum are encouraged to seek clarification by contacting the school.*

## **ART and DESIGN GCSE**

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** AQA

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

This course is designed for students who enjoy working in a range of media in response to a variety of starting points. These could range from texts (such as Kafka's *Metamorphosis* and Lewis Carroll's *Alice and Wonderland*) to displays in the Art room and examples of artists' work, both old and new.

### **How will I be taught?**

You will produce work of a fine art nature, predominantly in 2 dimensions using a wide range of materials. You will produce at least 3 projects in class and will be expected to work at home in your sketchbook, producing studies relevant to your class work.

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

The course is assessed in 2 ways:

- a) Coursework – 60%
- b) Controlled Test – 40%

Students are given preparation time prior to producing the final piece of work carried out in exam conditions over 12 lessons.

### **Should I choose ART GCSE?**

- Do you enjoy being creative, inspired and thinking independently?
- Do you have a confident all round ability?
- Are you enthusiastic about art?

## DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** AQA

Design and Technology changes the environment and the circumstances in which people find themselves. The GCSE course builds on the KS3 programme of study and provides the opportunity for students to specialise in a specific area of Design and Technology for the 2 year course.

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

Students can select which area of focus they are interested in. There will be information and explanation about each of the areas in the build up to the Options evening.

The areas of focus are as follows:

- Electronic Products
- Graphic Products
- Resistant Materials Technology
- Textiles Technology

It is possible that not all courses will run, depending on student interest. It is vital that students make a considered first and second choice. Advice and guidance will be available from Technology staff at every stage of decision making.

### **How will I be taught?**

You will use design and making skills to make quality products, applying skills from other subjects, such as ICT, Maths and Science. You will be able to work both individually and as part of a team with tasks encouraging you to develop your evaluative skills.

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

The course is assessed in 2 ways:

- a) Examination – 40%
  - b) Controlled Assessment – 60%
- This will be a design and make task set by the exam board

## COMPUTING GCSE

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** OCR

### What will I learn?

This is a course that has real relevance in our modern world. While you will no doubt already have some knowledge of computers and related areas, the course will give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on “behind the scenes”. As part of this, you will investigate the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science; understand the components that make up a digital system, how they communicate with one another and how to programme which many find interesting. You will study the following:

- High and low-level programming
- Computational logic
- Fundamentals of computer systems and data
- Systems architecture; hardware and software
- Communications and networking

### How will I be taught?

You will undertake a mixture of practical sessions, discussions, research and independent learning. Some theory will be introduced whereby you carry out a series of written tasks. You will study computer programming, which will help you develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills. It will be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills.

In this way, the course will stimulate interest and engagement with technology and technology-related careers.

### How will I be assessed?

There are 3 units:

- Computer systems - written paper worth 40%. The question paper includes short answer questions and essay type questions covering physical elements of computer science and the associated theory.
- Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming – worth 40%. This is focused on the core theory of computer science and the application of computer science principles.
- Programming project (non-exam) – worth 20%. Programming tasks that enable candidates to design, develop and test a solution to a problem.

### Should I choose Computing GCSE?

Information technologies continue to have a growing importance. This means there will be a bigger demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. If you want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science, you will find that this course provides a superb stepping stone. Students who have taken a Computing GCSE and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have a sound underpinning knowledge of this subject area.

## **GCSE DRAMA**

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** AQA

### **Should I choose DRAMA GCSE?**

Do you like working as part of a team?

Have you shown enthusiasm and effort at KS3?

Drama is a subject that allows you to be who you want to be, and act the way you want to. There are very few right or wrong answers. Drama gives you confidence; the ability to be able to stand up and say - this is who I am and what I'm capable of. It helps you to understand life from a different view, taking on different characters, emotions and problems. It trains you for the future when you may experience similar scenarios in your own life.

You need commitment, organisation, enthusiasm and the ability to work with others. Conscientious students will increase their self-confidence, learn performance skills and improve their powers of communication. Students will sometimes need to rehearse and attend performances outside normal curriculum time.

At the time of writing this qualification has yet to be accredited by Ofqual, so some details may change.

This qualification is linear - students undertake all non-exam assessment (NEA) in Year 11 and sit the written exam at the end of the course.

### **Subject content**

The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components:

1. Understanding drama
2. Devising drama
3. Texts in practice

In the practical components students may specialise in performing, lighting, sound, set, costume and/or puppets.

### **Assessments**

#### **Component 1: Understanding drama**

##### **What's assessed**

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of one set play from a choice of six
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

##### **How it's assessed**

- Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Open book
- 80 marks
- 40% of GCSE

## **Component 2: Devising drama (practical)**

### **What's assessed**

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

### **How it's assessed**

- Devising log (60 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 80 marks in total
- 40% of GCSE

This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

## **Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)**

### **What's assessed**

- Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer)

### **How it's assessed**

- Performance of Extract 1 (25 marks) **and** Extract 2 (25 marks)
- 50 marks in total
- 20% of GCSE

This component is marked by AQA

## **ENGINEERING (BTEC)**

**Qualification:** BTEC

**Board:** Edexcel

**Award:** This qualification is equivalent to GCSE at grades A\* - C

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

The course consists of two core units, plus two specialist units that enable you to study in more depth.

Core units:

1. Working Practices in Engineering
2. Using and interpreting Engineering information

Specialist units to be delivered will be chosen from

- a. Using Computer aided drawing Techniques
- b. Using secondary machining Techniques

### **How will I be taught?**

A BTEC First Certificate is a practical, work-related course. Students learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic engineering situations, activities and demands. The course introduces students to the world of Engineering and provides a good basis to go on to a more advanced work-related qualification. It is aimed at students who have a real interest in the world of Engineering, and wish to continue their studies or enter the workforce in this field.

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

The course is assessed through assignments / course work. All units are competency assessed and graded, and an overall grade for the qualification is awarded.

### **Should I choose BTEC ENGINEERING?**

- Do you want to enter employment in the engineering sector or to progress into Post 16 engineering courses?
- This course is an intensive course that requires high levels of concentration and responsibility.
- Students require a good level of practical skill, and ability in maths and science (see above).
- This course is not a vehicle maintenance course.
- This is a Level 2 course, suited to A\* - C candidates only.

# FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** AQA

Food and nutrition are fundamental aspects of everyone's life. Learning to prepare and cook ingredients that promote good health are important life skills.

## What will I learn?

The new GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills alongside a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food ingredients.

Six core topics will be covered

- Food preparation skills
- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

## How will I be taught?

Students will develop a broad range of knowledge and understand enabling them to make connections between theory and practice Food Preparation and Nutrition is a practical course and students will apply their understanding when preparing and cooking high skill food products.

## How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed in 2 ways:

1. Examination - 50%
2. Non exam assessment (2 tasks) - 50%
  - a) The food investigation - 15%

A scientific style investigation into the working characteristics, functional & chemical properties of ingredients
  - b) The Food Preparation Assessment - 35%

Planning, cooking and presenting a set of dishes.

Tasks will be set by the exam board and will be unique each year.

## **FRENCH GCSE**

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** AQA

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

You will build on the work done in the first 3 years of language learning.

You will look at understanding and providing opinions about the following contexts:

- Lifestyle – Health, Relationships and Choices
- Leisure – Free time, Media and Holidays
- Home and the Environment – Home and Local Area
- Work and Education – School and Future plans, jobs

### **How will I be taught?**

You will listen to recorded material and work on computers to improve your listening skills. You will use written material such as those in magazines. You will learn about things you would need to say if you were living or working in a French speaking country. You will also learn to write creatively in the foreign language and improve grammatical and translation skills.

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

There are 4 skills, each assessed via an examination at the end of year 11.

- Listening – worth 25%
- Reading – worth 25%
- Speaking – worth 25%
- Writing – worth 25%

A Language GCSE will teach you practical use of a language and basic conversational skills, which could help with almost any career such as Engineering or Primary teaching and open up opportunities at home and abroad. You will also gain a wider knowledge of the world, so you can take your place in our global society. A Language GCSE grade C is required for the EBacc qualification. French is the official language of 56 countries throughout the world and is highly in demand by businesses in the UK.

## **GEOGRAPHY GCSE**

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** AQA

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

You will look at 3 main units throughout Years 10 and 11. Each includes different topics and requires different geographical skills.

Year 10 – Unit 1 – Living with the Physical Environment (Natural Hazards, the Living World and Physical Landscapes in the UK)

Years 10 and 11 – Unit 3 - Geographical Applications (Fieldwork and Geographical Skills)

Year 11 – Unit 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment (Urban Issues, Changing Global Economics, Resource Management)

### **How will I be taught?**

Lessons will cover many different aspects of Geography and you will develop a range of skills, from analyzing photographs and maps and interpreting data to team work and model making. You will also take part in a field trip, which will be related directly to the exams in Year 11.

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

Geography is assessed by 3 written exams in Year 11.

You will complete all exams in June 2018.

### **Should I choose GEOGRAPHY GCSE?**

Geography is EVERYWHERE. It teaches you about the earth's places, peoples, environments and societies.

Are you concerned about the environment?

Do you want to learn about the UK and foreign countries?

Do you want to learn outside of the classroom?

Do you want to help future generations?

Geography Related Jobs:

Environment Agency Worker, Marine Biologist, Geologist, Volcanologist, Conservation Groups, Travel Writer, Aid Worker, Pollution Control, Town or Transport Planner, Logistics Director, Demographer, GIS expert, Explorer.

## **GERMAN GCSE**

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** AQA

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

Students will build on the work done in the first 2 years of language learning.

They will look at understanding and providing opinions about the following contexts:

- Lifestyle – Health, Relationships and Choices
- Leisure – Free time, Media and Holidays
- Home and the Environment – Home and Local Area
- Work and Education – School and Future plans, jobs

### **How will I be taught?**

You will listen to recorded material and work on computers to improve your listening skills. You will use written material such as those in magazines. You will learn about things you would need to say if you were living or working in a German speaking country. You will also learn to write creatively in the foreign language and improve grammatical and translation skills.

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

There are 4 skills, each assessed via an examination at the end of year 11.

- Listening – worth 25%
- Reading – worth 25%
- Speaking – worth 25%
- Writing – worth 25%

### **Should I choose German GCSE?**

An additional language at GCSE opens up even more opportunities at home and abroad and is highly regarded by Universities and employers, and is a necessity in language specific jobs. Dual linguists typically reach similar grades in both languages as many skills are transferrable. You would be able to pursue one or both languages in Year 12 as languages is not a subject you can pick up in Year 12 without doing GCSE. You will also gain a wider knowledge of the world, so you can take your place in our global society. A Language GCSE grade C is required for the EBacc qualification. As well as being useful for work within the European Union, German is the language most in demand by businesses in the UK.

## HISTORY GCSE

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** AQA

What will I learn?

### **In Year 10 you will study:**

#### **Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day**

This covers how and why health care has improved through both Science and Technology, but also through reform and change by governments.

#### **Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950–1975**

This covers the causes and events of the Korean and Vietnam wars. It looks at the relationship between Russia and America during the Cold War. It has a large focus on how these wars affected ordinary Americans, not just fighting.

### **In Year 11 you will study:**

#### **Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship.**

This covers how and why German governments succeeded and failed before 1933. It covers the rise of Hitler, and how the Nazis looked to control life in Germany. It does not cover war in any detail.

#### **Elizabethan England, c1568–1603**

This unit looks at the last Tudor monarch, and explores how a woman ruled England at a time of economic success and triumph in war. It involves the study of source material and artefacts from the time to help explain then past.

### **How will I be taught?**

Lessons will take a variety of forms including source investigations, independent research, debates, discussions and role play, as well as written tasks. A wide range of resources and video material is also used.

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

Students will sit two exam papers at the end of Y11

Paper 1 is worth 50% **and covers the topics about Britain**

Paper 2 is worth 50% and covers topics about Germany and Asia

### **Should I choose HISTORY GCSE?**

Apart from being interesting and challenging, History can teach you a variety of skills including creating coherent arguments, debate, communication and empathy. Employers value History as a qualification and it can be used in lots of different careers. This course shows employers that students have skills in organising thoughts, and analysing information. Popular careers for people with a History degree include Law, Journalism and Accountancy.

## MUSIC GCSE

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** AQA

### What will I learn?

This course opens the door to a wide range of students of all abilities and musical backgrounds. You do not have to be a brilliant performer although we do encourage students to have instrumental or singing lessons where possible. The approximate standard is Grade 3 by the time the student is in Y11.

Students who are more musically able will be stretched and might even be encouraged to take it up for AS level and beyond. We encourage all students who take this subject to join in an ensemble extra-curricular group offered at school (or in your own time outside school).

### How will I be taught?

Classes tend to be small, lessons fun and lots of opportunities are given to learn more about the music you love, as well as giving you an insight into unfamiliar styles and genres. You will need to compose and perform throughout the course. You will work on keyboards, Apple MACs and PCs.

There are some compulsory strands including the study of set works from the western classical tradition, popular music of the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> centuries as well as music from other cultures. Because of the small group sizes, music teachers are also able to deliver lessons that can be tailored towards the individual musical preferences and tastes of the students.

### How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed in 3 ways:

- a) Performing 2 pieces on an instrument of your choice (or voice) – 30%
- b) Listening and Understanding in the form of an exam – 40%
- c) Composing 2 pieces – 30%

The AQA specification that we are following is new, starting in Sept 2016, with the first cohort going through in 2018.

### Should I choose MUSIC GCSE?

- Do you enjoy listening to music at home?
- Do you enjoy singing or playing an instrument?
- Do you enjoy making up your own pieces
- If “Yes” to any of these, then do consider taking this subject!

Any questions, please e-mail Mrs Elderton Head of Music [eld@downend.com](mailto:eld@downend.com)

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** OCR

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

This course will help you learn about the beliefs and teachings & practices of two religions as well as approaches of philosophy and religion to some of the fundamental questions about human existence. It will also explore some of the most important questions about how people behave and the reasons for these behaviours. You will be challenged to think critically about dominant beliefs and concepts, both religious and non-religious, and evaluate these ideas in order to express your own views using an objective and philosophical approach.

Key topics include:

- Relationships and families
- The existence of God, gods and the ultimate reality
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes

### **How will I be taught?**

Lessons will have an emphasis on discussion and group work as well as independent research and structured essays. You will have to demonstrate the ability to think clearly, logically and from a variety of standpoints. You will also need to express your own opinions whilst taking into account the views of others.

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

Two 1 hour exams and one 2 hour exam at the end of Year 11

There is no coursework.

### **Should I choose Religious Studies GCSE?**

Are you interested in thinking about the really BIG questions?

Can war or violence ever be justified?

Can Science provide all the answers?

How do we know what is right and wrong?

Is it ever right to take a life?

When does life begin?

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Board:** Edexcel

PE GCSE is an academic qualification aimed at those who are performing/ taking part/ competing in sport outside school on a regular basis as an individual or as part of a team. If you apply for the course you will be interviewed by a member of the PE team and need to provide evidence of your commitment to sport outside school.

Please be aware that if you cannot provide the evidence required you will not be offered a place on the GCSE PE course. For more information please see a member of the PE team who will be able to talk through the type of evidence/activity required in more detail.

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

The course requires you to retain information and develop your knowledge of both the practical and theoretical aspects of PE. You will be assessed through 4 practical scores and prepare for an exam.

### **How will I be taught?**

Lessons are a mixture of theory and practical PE sessions. You must always be prepared for both.

You need to be prepared to take part in a variety of practical lessons, including activities you may struggle with. You also need to be aware that some practical activities will take place in mixed gender groups and you must be prepared to take an active role in these sessions.

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

60% of the final grade is assessed on a written paper at the end of the course

40% of the final grade is based on whether you can show evidence of being some of the following

- Performer
- Leader/Coach
- Organiser
- Official
- Choreographer

At least 2 pieces of evidence must show you being a performer and at least one must be in a different role.

You will be assessed in 4 practical scores.

### **Should I choose PE GCSE?**

PE GCSE would be a worthwhile qualification for any of the following:

- Sports coach
- Community coach
- Physical Education teacher
- Leisure Centre manager
- Gym/Fitness instructor
- Sports Scientists
- Physiotherapists
- Sports Nutritionist
- Summer camp counsellor

## PROGRESSION ONTO WORK



**Qualification:** Level 2 certification

**Board:** Edexcel/ CMI/ ASDAN

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

The programme will enable students to develop a range of personal and employability skills to support their progression onto work or further education.

During Year 10 students will gain accredited and industry recognised certificates in the following areas:

- CMI Level 2 Award in Team Leading
- Award in Employability
- Level 2 Award in Workskills
- Level 2 Award in Sustainability
- First Aid Certificate
- Safe Learning Certificate

### **How will I be taught?**

Students will work on a rotation basis where they will spend approximately seven weeks on each qualification leading to each element being formally certificated. Students will rotate through all elements of the course during year 10 ensuring that they receive a number of valuable employability qualifications.

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

All work is assessed through coursework based assignments or online testing.

### **Why should I choose the progression onto work package?**

If you are keen to go into employment or onto an apprenticeship after school then having a solid CV and being able to demonstrate lots of transferable employability skills will put you in a strong position in an increasingly competitive job market.