

KS4 Core Curriculum Subjects

GCSE Combined Science

Introduction

All students have at least ten periods of Science teaching each fortnight. In this time they are prepared for two GCSEs in Science. The Science curriculum in Key Stage 4 provides a balance of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and an increased emphasis on how science is involved in almost every aspect of life today.

GCSE study in the sciences provides the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity and all students will be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science.

The Combined Science route provides a solid foundation for A level Sciences. Students with a keen interest in the subject may, in addition, choose "Separate Science" as one of their options allowing them to take separate GCSEs in the three Science areas.

The Course

GCSE specifications in Combined Science enable students to:

- develop scientific knowledge and understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them.
- develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills, both in the laboratory, in the field and in other learning environments.
- develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

How will I learn?

The Combined Science course involves group work and individual assignments, discussions, practical investigations and presentations. The course contains 12 core practical's which every student will have an opportunity to complete.

The pattern of assessment involves examinations at the end of Year 11 which will include assessments of practical skills. Students will receive two GCSE grades for their Combined Science GCSE.

Further Information: Dr C Johns cjohns@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

GCSE Core English

Further Information: Mrs R Workman

What will you learn?

You will learn

- How to write accurately and effectively for a range of purposes including stories, letters, essays and reports.
- A broad and stimulating range of texts that will help you understand the way writers communicate with readers, including Shakespeare, other drama, novels and poetry.
- How to make your voice heard in discussion; how to interest and engage other people by your speaking and listening.
- How to communicate clearly with others.

How will I learn?

You will have ten periods of English per fortnight. In these lessons, you will study a range of texts for AQA GCSE English Language and AQA GCSE Literature. At the end of the two-year course, you will have exams for both of these subjects resulting in two GCSE qualifications. Although separate GCSEs, the knowledge and skills compliment each other, allowing you to gain expertise in exploring texts and in crafting your own interpretations and responses. You will use a variety of different approaches that will encourage you to be critical readers, confident writers and successful speakers. All of the English exams are 'closed book'. We will support you in your learning with detailed revision guides, knowledge organisers, regular tests and essay practice to ensure that you are expert Literature and Language students.

GCSE English Literature SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

AQA GCSE Literature Paper 1: 'Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel' – 40% (1 hour 45 mins)

Section A Shakespeare: write in detail about an extract from a Shakespeare play (currently 'Macbeth') and then write about the play as a whole.

Section B 19th C Novel: write in detail about an extract from a 19th century novel (currently Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol') and then write about the novel as a whole.

AQA GCSE Literature Paper 2: 'Modern Texts and Poetry since 1789' - 60% (2 hours, 15 mins)

Section A Modern Text: a choice of essay questions on a modern text (currently Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls').

Section B Poetry: compare one named poem (reprinted on the exam paper) with one other poem (from memory) on poems from the AQA poetry anthology (we currently study the 'Power & Conflict' section).

Section C: Unseen Poetry: answer one question on one unseen poem in detail and then answer a short question comparing a second unseen poem to the first poem.

GCSE English Language SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

AQA GCSE English Language Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing – 50% (1 hour 45 mins)

Section A: Reading - respond to an extract of a 20th or 21st century fiction text and explore the writer's use of narrative, structure and language features and how they are used to capture the interest of readers.

Section B: Writing - write your own creative fiction text, inspired by the topic in section A. This will be a choice of questions: either an image as stimulus for writing or a story scenario.

AQA GCSE English Language Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives - 50% (1 hour 45 mins)

Section A: Reading - respond to two unseen non-fiction texts from different time periods (linked by theme). One of the texts will be from the 19th century. Analyse, summarise and compare writer's views in the texts.

Section B: Writing – craft a non-fiction text e.g. a speech, article or letter

Spoken Language Endorsement: all students study speech presentation skills for the 'Spoken Language Endorsement'. This is a compulsory element of GCSE English Language and is a formal speech delivered to an audience. Students plan, prepare and deliver a formal presentation and then respond appropriately to questions from the audience. This is teacher-assessed and forms a separate, stand-alone assessment. There are three award levels for the Spoken Language Award: Pass, Merit or Distinction.

GCSE Mathematics

You will learn

- How to work with numbers in many different forms. This brings together skills needed in everyday life and other subjects.
- How to use letters and symbols to represent different values. Within algebra you will also develop the formula and graphical skills used in Mathematics and many other subjects.
- How to work with angles, lengths, areas and volumes to solve problems in shape and space. You will also learn how to use scale measurements and mathematical equipment to construct accurate diagrams.
- How to collect and analyse statistical data, and calculate probabilities. You will also develop graph skills for illustrating and comparing information.
- How to use and apply the Mathematics you know to solve problems in real life.
- Strategies and methods to work out calculations without a calculator.
- How to use your calculator efficiently to save time and effort.

How will I be assessed?

100 % Examination – 3 papers, each 1 ½ hours

All papers cover the entire syllabus. They include a lot of unstructured and ‘thinking’ questions to assess how well you can apply your knowledge to solve unfamiliar problems.

Paper 1 Non-Calculator examination

Paper 2 Calculator examination

Paper 3 Calculator examination

The total for all of these papers is converted into the final grade.

There are 2 tiers of entry with a range of grades available in each tier.

Higher: 4 to 9

Foundation: 1 to 5

Key Facts

Award:
Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel
(9-1) – 1MA1

Level:
GCSE

Duration:
This is a continuation
of the 5 year course
started in Year 7

Further information:
Mrs J Wells

PSHE

(Personal, Social and Health Education)

The personal wellbeing of students is integral to the Key Stage 4 curriculum.

PSHE helps students embrace change, it aims to help young people feel positive about who they are and enjoy healthy, safe, responsible and fulfilled lives.

Through active learning opportunities, students recognise and manage risk, take increasing responsibility for themselves, their choices and behaviours and make positive contributions to their schools and communities.

As young people explore similarities and differences between people and discuss social and moral dilemmas, they can learn to deal with challenges and accommodate diversity in all its forms. PSHE helps students explore complex and often conflicting values and reflect on and clarify their own values and attitudes. They learn to manage new or difficult situations positively and form and maintain effective relationships with a wide range of people.

Key concepts covered are:

Personal identities

Healthy lifestyles

Mental Health

Risk

Cyber Safety

Relationships

Diversity

Careers – including mock interviews and work experience

A variety of visiting speakers are used to help support and enhance certain areas of the PSHE curriculum.

CORE R.E.

In Core R.E. students will follow a course of study issues of Life, Death, Humanity and the Universe, covered in one lesson per fortnight. Units to be studied include:

Abortion, Euthanasia and Cloning
Crime, Punishment and the Death Penalty
Do miracles happen today?
Do we need religion?

Students will be expected to contribute to lessons through verbal contribution in class and written analysis in their Core Booklet. and debate and be able to work well as individuals and in groups.

There is no formal assessment in Core R.E. Students will be given guidance on their progress through teacher marking and verbal feedback. This subject does NOT lead to a GCSE qualification.

CORE Sport

KEY STAGE 4

Key stage 4 Pupils should tackle complex and demanding physical activities. They should get involved in a range of activities that develops personal fitness and promotes an active, healthy lifestyle.

Pupils should be taught to use and develop a variety of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in team and individual games develop their technique and improve their performance in other competitive sports, or other physical activities. Pupils take part in further outdoor and adventurous activities in a range of environments which present intellectual and physical challenges and which encourage them to work in a team, building on trust and developing skills to solve problems, either individually or as a group evaluate their performances compared to previous ones and demonstrate improvement across a range of physical activities to achieve their personal best. Pupils continue to take part regularly in competitive sports and activities outside school through community links or sports clubs.

At Newent pupils are still expected to participate in a team game and follow a further course in health-related fitness. The other activities are very much offered and taught on a more recreational type basis.

KS4

Optional

Subjects

GCSE 3D Studies

Why should I study this subject?

3D Studies is a popular and highly rewarding option choice. Students who graduate in the visual arts can pursue a variety of careers including studio or craft enterprises, ceramics, theatre design, sculpture, fashion, jewellery, graphics, product design, environmental design and teaching amongst others.

A good background in the visual arts is welcome in a wide range of more conventional careers that draw extensively on creative thinking and application. 3D Studies adopts a number of approaches, investigating contemporary and historical approaches to design.

Areas of future study:-

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| • Ceramic Artist | Public Artist | Exhibition Designer |
| • Furniture Designer | Set Designer | Media Technician |
| • Lighting Designer | Fine Art Sculptor | Decorative Artist |

How will I learn?

Based in the creative and stimulating environment of the Art department, this exciting and popular course allows students to develop their art through working with a wide range of three-dimensional media.

With the emphasis on designing and making, the course gives you the opportunity to develop and explore your creative ideas through

- Ceramics
- Sculpture
- Jewellery/Body Adornment
- Exhibition design
- Design for television, theatre or film
- Interior design
- Product design
- Environmental/Garden design
- Architectural design.

The course will also give you the opportunity to visit galleries and, wherever possible, work with practising artists, working both in school and on local sculpture projects.

Success on one of our Art GCSE courses allows a student to progress on to one or more of our excellent Art A level courses. For example a student taking Graphics at GCSE might progress to take Fine Art and Photography in our Sixth Form. We recommend students therefore take only one of our GCSE Art subjects to maximize the breadth of their experience in Key Stage 4.

Key Facts

Award: GCSE 3D Studies

Exam Board: AQA

Assessment:

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work
96 marks – 60%
Work is undertaken over two years and consists of one or more projects. Students select their best work to be presented and assessed.

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment
96 marks – 40%
Unlimited preparation time with a 10 hr. exam.
Students are offered a variety of starting points. They select one and respond with a portfolio of work.

Progression:

Further study at 16+ or skills for job entry / apprenticeship.

Further Information:

Ms M McClay

Ms R Herring

Mrs S Woodward

GCSE Business

Why should I study this subject?

Are YOU interested in making MONEY or being your own BOSS?

Fancy studying something different which will be useful in later life?

You will be introduced to the world of business and will look at what makes someone a successful business person.

You will find out how to develop an idea and spot an opportunity and turn that into a successful business.

You will understand how to make a business effective and how to manage money.

You will make decisions, weigh up arguments and justify your points so you will need to communicate with others both in writing and verbally.

How will I learn?

Lessons will consist of individual and group work, presentations etc.

Written work is a **large part** of the course.

You will engage with businesses and participate in national competitions. It is likely that during the course of study you will visit a national business.

Some topics which were traditionally taught at A Level are now included at GCSE Level.

Additional Information

The subject will be graded 9-1, 9 being the highest grade. At the end of year 11 you will be assessed by an examination which will consist of a mixture of data response, short answers, calculations, extended-writing and scenario based questions. **There will be an emphasis on extended writing and business numeracy.**

Key Facts

Award: GCSE Business

Exam Board: Edexcel

Assessment:

100% Examination
2 x 1hr 30 mins. exams

Progression:

A Level Business
A Level Economics
A Levels in other complementary subjects
Apprenticeship
Employment in a range of business related professions including accountancy, law, marketing and the leisure industry

Further Information:

Miss L Brown

Level 1 / 2 Child Development

Why should I study this subject?

Child Development is designed to give you an opportunity to extend and apply your skills, knowledge and understanding of the development and care of children from conception to the age of 5 years within a variety of contexts.

What will I learn?

Child Development is divided into 3 areas of study, enhanced by practical activities wherever possible.

Unit 1. Health and wellbeing for child development. This unit underpins all of the other learning in this qualification. You will learn essential knowledge and understanding for child development covering reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks, care and conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety.

Unit 2. Understanding the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years. In this unit you will gain knowledge of the equipment needs of babies and young children and an understanding of the factors to be considered when choosing appropriate equipment to meet all of these needs. You will also gain knowledge of nutrition and hygiene practices and will be given the opportunity to evaluate dietary choices.

Unit 3. Understanding the development of a child from birth to five years. In this unit you will gain knowledge of, and skills in, developing activities to observe development norms in children up to the age of five. The unit will include researching, planning, carrying out activities with children as well as an understanding of the development norms and the benefits of play in child development.

Key Facts

Award: Cambridge National Certificate in Child Development

Exam Board: OCR

Assessment:

Unit 1: Exam 1 hr 15 minutes consisting of short answer and extended response questions. 40%

Unit 2: The internally assessed task, externally moderated, will be practical in the context of an assignment selected from a bank of assignments. 30%

Unit 3: In this internally assessed, externally moderated task you will be required to complete a child study investigating norms of development. 30%

Progression:

Further study at 16+ for progression onto academic courses or a variety of vocational courses including Health and Social Care.

The qualification is recognised by Ofqual, DFE and by 16-19 providers to allow progression to A Level, Further Education, an apprenticeship or employment.

Further Information:

Mrs L James

GCSE Computer Science

Why should I study this subject?

This course should appeal to those of you who are interested in the more **'technical'** side of computers and are **maths** minded. So, if you enjoy:

- Mathematics and Science
- Systems and Cyber Security
- Problem solving, analysis & critical thinking
- Learning about all types of electronic equipment and control programs
- Coding solutions

then GCSE Computer Science would be the ideal subject for you. This is a very exciting course suitable for those students who want to learn more about what goes on 'behind the scenes' of today's technology – and learn how to program and control technology, learning the fundamentals of what makes a computer and how it actually works!

What will I learn?

Over the next two years **YOU** will:

Develop your understanding of current and emerging technologies, learning how they work and then apply this understanding. You will gain the technical skills necessary to use algorithms in computer programs and develop computer programs to solve problems. There will be one 1 hour 30-minute and one 1 hour 20-minute written exam for this course which covers the following components:

Component 1. Computer Systems

Paper 1 – 1 hour 30 minutes

Topic 1: Computational thinking – understanding of what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work; ability to follow, amend and write algorithms; ability to construct truth tables.

Topic 2: Data – understanding of binary, data representation, data storage and compression.

Topic 3: Computers – understanding of hardware and software components of computer systems and characteristics of programming languages.

Topic 4: Networks – understanding of computer networks and network security.

Topic 5: Issues and impact – awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies, and the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues.

Component 2: Application of Computational Thinking

Paper 2 – 1 hour 20 minutes

Problem solving with programming.

The main focus of this unit is to:

Understand what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work in relation to creating programs.

Understand how to decompose and analyse problems.

Ability to read, write, refine and evaluate programs.

Key Facts

Award: GCSE Computer Science

Exam Board: Edexcel

Assessment:

Component 1 Principles of Computer Science

Exam - 50% of the qualification

Component 2 Application of Computational Thinking

Exam - 50% of the qualification

Progression:

Further study at 16+ - A Level Computing

If you are considering future careers in the Computing or Engineering fields, Games Programmers, Hardware Engineers, Aerospace Engineers or PC Technicians, then this is the course for you.

Further Information:

Mr T Worgan

GCSE Design and Technology

Why should I study this subject and what will I learn?

The Design and Technology course is about designing and then making unique products. The course is aimed at those who have an interest in design, engineering or improving their practical skills. You will learn to accurately use a range of hand and machine tools. You will also learn how to programme a computer aided milling machine and will design and make products from a range of different materials. You will learn a number of freehand drawing and presentation skills as well as producing standard engineering drawings by hand and with the use of computer aided design software.

This is a practical, hands on GCSE and a great deal of the theory work is taught through designing and practical projects.

Areas of Study

- Designing skills. Solving problems and designing unique solutions
- 2D and 3D sketching techniques
- 3D CAD 2D CAD Engineering drawing
- Production planning and quality control
- Material properties including Smart Materials
- Design and technology and our world
- Electronic systems and programmable components
- Mechanical components and devices

Practically you will learn

- Woodworking, including joints, wood turning and mould making.
- Metal working, including riveting, brazing, welding, lathe-work and aluminium casting.
- How to use mechanical and electronic components.
- How to work with textiles, paper products and plastics.

How will I learn?

Much of the course is project based, starting with a series of small tasks to help develop your designing and practical skills. You will complete design, drawing, theory and practical skills projects. The course ends with a major individual design project. For this you will need to produce an interesting project and design sheets to showcase your skills. You will also need to make a high quality prototype of your final design. You will learn how to effectively use Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture along with illustration and office programs to aid you with project work and construction.

Key Facts

Award: GCSE Design and Technology

Exam Board: Eduqas

50% Exam - 2 hrs.

50% Major Design project –non exam assessment

Progression: A Level D&T or Design, an apprenticeship or employment.

Former students have gone on to study Theatre and Set Design, Aeronautical Engineering and Automotive design amongst others.

Further Information: Mrs L James

GCSE Drama

Why should I study this subject?

Drama GCSE is an **exciting, challenging and creative** course. It includes the opportunity to devise and take part in dramatic performances; study drama texts; attend theatre productions; learn effective speaking, listening and presentation skills and grow in confidence and self-awareness. All students have the option to be assessed in either acting or design roles.

The AQA Drama course encourages students to develop skills of **creativity, self-confidence, concentration, self-discipline and communication**. It increases self and group awareness and the ability to appreciate and evaluate.

How will I learn?

Component 1, your written exam, will focus on the study of a set text and on analysing and evaluating a piece of live theatre.

Component 2 will see you devise your own piece of theatre and write a 'Devising Log' in which you will both describe, explain and evaluate your work. You are able to work as either a performer or designer.

Component 3 includes the study and performance of two extracts from the same play. As with component 2 you are able to work as either a performer or a designer.

As well as acquiring the skills involved in creating and performing Drama, you will also develop skills in working with others, problem solving, communication and research. You will find that Drama will help you feel more self-confident and prepare you to deal with a range of situations and people. It looks great on a university application too, demonstrating that you have confidence and are a good public speaker!

Key Facts

Award:

GCSE Drama

Exam Board:

AQA

Assessment:

1. Understanding Drama
1 hr. 45 mins. exam 40%

2. Devised Practical
Performance and log.
- internally assessed,
externally moderated 40%

3. Texts in Practice (Practical)
Externally marked 20%

Progression:

**BTEC Level 3 National
Extended Certificate in
Performing Arts**

Drama is useful in all sorts of careers in addition to acting and the arts: it's ideal for business management, media, travel, tourism, retail, sales and marketing.

Further Information:

Mrs M Hood

GCSE Fine Art

Why should I study this subject?

Fine Art is a popular and highly rewarding option choice. Students who graduate in the Visual Arts can pursue a variety of careers including Studio or Craft Enterprises, Painting, Land Art, Publishing, Fashion, Film and Video, Graphics, Photography, Printmaking, Advertising, Teaching etc.

A good background in the Visual Arts is welcome in a wide range of more conventional careers that draw extensively on creative thinking and application. Fine Art adopts a number of approaches investigating the contemporary and historical, exploring changing styles and influences.

Areas of future study:-

Painter

Gallery Curator

Art Director

Printmaker

Set Designer

Illustrator

Exhibition Designer

Media Artist

Decorative Artist

How will I learn?

GCSE Fine Art is delivered in the well-equipped and stimulating Art studios. You will have the opportunity to develop your skills and knowledge, exploring images and artefacts in social, historical and cultural contexts and to develop your talents and creativity in a wide range of activities, including:

- Painting and drawing
- Mixed media, including collage and assemblage
- Sculpture
- Land art
- Installation
- Printmaking: relief, intaglio, screen processes and lithography
- Lens-based and/or light-based media and new media: film, television, animation, video and photography

Success on one of our Art GCSE courses allows a student to progress on to one or more of our excellent Art A level courses. For example a student taking Graphics at GCSE might progress to take Fine Art and Photography in our Sixth Form.

Key Facts

Award: GCSE Fine Art

Exam Board: AQA

Assessment:

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work

96 marks – 60%

Work is undertaken over two years and consists of one or more projects. Students select their best work to be presented and assessed.

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment

96 marks – 40%

Unlimited preparation time with a 10 hr exam.

Students are offered a variety of starting points. They select one and respond with a portfolio of work.

Progression:

Further study at 16+ or skills for job entry / apprenticeships.

Further Information:

Ms M McClay

Mrs R Herring

Mrs S Woodward

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Why should I study this subject?

The course will equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It will encourage students to cook and enable them to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways as well as develop vital life skills that enable them to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

How will I learn?

We use a wide range of teaching and learning styles which include group work, case studies, working with different client groups and discussions. A main emphasis is on practical work.

Assessed practical activities will be carried out during lesson time and will follow themes set by the exam board. Each practical will be accompanied by written documentation.

The final examination consists of short answers, structured and free response questions.

You will be taught in mixed ability classes and there will be a high level of practical “hands on” work.

What will I learn?

Areas of Study

- Food Commodities including features and characteristics.
- Principles of Nutrition including recommendations for a healthy diet; functions and sources of nutrients.
- Food Provenance and Choice including where and how foods are grown; technological developments and culinary traditions.
- Cooking and Food Preparation including the scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food. Developing recipes and meals.

Key Facts

Award: GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam Board: WJEC (Eduqas)

Assessment:

2 Components

Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam:

1 hr. 45 mins. 50%

Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action – non exam assessment – internally assessed and externally moderated. 15% - Food Investigation Assessment and 35% - Food Preparation Assessment.

Progression:

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition or further study at 16+ for progression on to either academic courses or a variety of vocational courses including Food Science, Catering, Hospitality, Tourism, Sport Award, Health & Social Care.

Further Information:

Mrs L James

GCSE French

Why should I study this subject?

**Foreign languages... are important in the world of work
help you succeed in other subjects
give you greater opportunities to travel
give you a sense of achievement**

Bearing all this in mind, can you afford to not have a GCSE in a foreign language?

GCSE French develops the skills you picked up at Key Stage 3 and will give you the edge in today's highly competitive jobs market. Many higher education courses in all sorts of subjects now include either a year at a foreign university or work in a foreign firm, so a GCSE French qualification could help you secure an exciting placement. It will also give you the skills to help you pick up any other language you may need, or have an interest in, later in your life.

In lessons you will learn to speak fluently and spontaneously. You will also improve your understanding of spoken and written French as well as describing photos in detail, writing essays on a given topic and working out vocabulary from various contexts.

The GCSE will cover three broad themes, which are based on your own lifestyle and that of other people, including people in French speaking countries:

- identity and culture
- local, national, international and global areas of interest
- current and future study and employment

How will I learn?

We promote a variety of learning styles and use a wide range of resources, including the exam board endorsed text book and authentic listening and video materials. You will be encouraged to build on the skills developed in your Key Stage 3 lessons, with a big emphasis on independent learning. There will be plenty of opportunity to practice conversation and the chance to take part in regular pair and group work.

In order to develop your understanding of French lifestyle and culture there will be opportunities to have contact with students from our partner school in Normandy, as well as to visit Normandy as part of a school trip.

The four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing will be separately assessed through exams at the end of the course, each component being worth 25% of the final grade.

Key Facts

Award: GCSE French

Exam Board: AQA

Assessment:

25% Speaking (Exam)

25% Writing (Exam)

25% Listening (Exam)

25% Reading (Exam)

Progression:

A Level French

Further Information:

Miss C Trezeux

GCSE Geography

Why should I study this subject?

It is an interesting subject that can take you places! If you are curious and fascinated about the world and you want to find out more about how physical and human environments are formed and how they interact, then this is the subject for you! Geography is a dynamic and relevant subject for all young people. It inspires you to become a global citizen by exploring your own place in the world, your values and responsibilities to other people, to the environment and to the sustainability of the planet. Geography also equips you with a broad range of skills which are all highly valued by universities and employers. You may be thinking of a future career and there are endless opportunities across many different job sectors.

Geography GCSE at Newent Community School will cover both physical topics and human topics as well as a decision-making exercise.

Living with the Physical World: The challenge of natural hazards (tectonics and extreme weather), the living world (tropical rainforests and deserts) and physical landscapes (rivers and coasts).

Challenges in the Human Environment: Urban issues and challenges (cities and urbanisation), the changing economic world (employment and development) and the challenge of resource management (food and water insecurity).

Geographical Applications: issue evaluation and fieldwork. This is a decision-making exercise with questions relating to topics from both physical and human topics. There will also be questions relating to the two fieldwork trips; one related to rivers and one related to urban studies.

Geographical Skills: including literacy, numeracy, graphic and mapwork skills.

What skills will I learn?

Studying Geography will provide you with the opportunity to develop numerous transferable skills. During the course you will

- Apply geographical skills and enquiry skills
- Carry out fieldwork and out-of-class learning in two different environments
- Use new technologies including Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Extract and interpret information from a range of sources
- Communicate in a variety of ways, including extended writing and graphical forms
- Acquire and use geographical vocabulary
- Make informed geographical decisions

Key Facts

Award:
GCSE Geography

Exam Board: AQA

Assessment:
3 units:

Living with the Physical World
Examination (1hr 30 mins) 35%

Challenges in the Human
Environment
Examination (1hr 30 mins) 35%

Geographical Applications
Examination (1hr 30 mins.) 30%

Progression:
A Level Geography works very well with other subjects.
An apprenticeship or employment.

GCSE Graphic Design

Why should I study this subject?

Graphic Design is a popular and highly rewarding option choice. Students who graduate in the visual arts can pursue a variety of careers including studio or craft enterprises, architecture, theatre design, publishing, fashion, film and video, graphics, photography, ICT illustration, advertising or teaching.

A good background in the visual arts is welcome in a wide range of more conventional careers that draw extensively on creative thinking and application. Graphic design makes use of computer aided design and photography to support a variety of hands on approaches including, painting, line and tonal work and printing techniques.

Areas of future study:-

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| • Web Design | Illustrator | Multimedia Designer |
| • Layout Artist | Flash Designer | Press Technician |
| • Logo Designer | Photoshop Artist | Photographer |

How will I learn?

GCSE Graphic Design is delivered in the well-equipped and stimulating Art studios. You will have the opportunity to develop your skills and knowledge through: printmaking, collage, photography, computer aided design using Photoshop CS3, typography design, drawing and painting skills.

You will have the opportunity to experiment with the following:

- Illustration
- Advertising
- Packaging design
- Communication graphics
- Design for print
- Animation
- Digital media
- Web Design, Television, Multimedia
- Lens-based and light-based media: film, animation, video and photography
- New media practices such as computer generated imagery

Success on one of our Art GCSE courses allows a student to progress on to one or more of our excellent Art A level courses. For example a student taking Graphics at GCSE might progress to take Fine Art and Photography in our Sixth Form. We recommend students therefore take only one of our GCSE Art subjects to maximize the breadth of their experience in Key Stage 4.

Key Facts

Award: GCSE Graphic Design

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work

96 marks – 60%

Work is undertaken over two years and consists of one or more projects. Students select their best work to be presented and assessed.

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment

96 marks – 40%

Unlimited preparation time with a 10 hour exam.

Students are offered a variety of starting points. They select one and respond with a portfolio of work.

Duration: 2 years

Progression:

Further study at 16+ or skills for job entry / apprenticeships.

Further Information:

Ms M McClay

Mr A Woodward

GCSE History

Our History GCSE course is with **Edexcel** and covers a range of topics which will help you to become a well-informed and educated citizen. It will not only give you an understanding of the past, but it will help you understand major events happening today and thoroughly prepare you for A level History.

History is very respected by colleges and universities alike, as it gives students essential skills for life and further study. History is a challenging academic subject and requires hard work, however, if you have a genuine interest in the world around you and you are willing to work hard, this course will open many doors for you.

History is a useful subject for a wide range of careers, such as media and journalism, teaching, law, accountancy, writer/editor, archaeology, medicine and research, leisure and tourism (opportunities to work abroad), civil service and intelligence, heritage, the health service, social work and many others. It is one of the most highly regarded and employable subjects to have on your CV. The format for the course will be as below:

Paper 1 (30%)

Consists of two sections:

A historic environment study

The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.

A study of change over 1000 years

Medicine in Britain, c.1250-present – a breadth study that looks at the medical developments to Britain, all of which have helped to shape the health service that we have today.

Paper 2 (40%)

Consists of **two** separate studies worth 20% each

Part A

Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c 1060-88, the lead up to, and consequences of, the Norman Conquest.

Part B

Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91 – a period study that traces and explains the difficult relationship between the “West” and Russia, which still remains an issue today.

Paper 3 (30%)

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39 – a focus on how the Nazis came to power and then prepared Germany for war in the 1930s.

How will I learn?

We will aim to keep this new course lively and active. In most lessons you will be expected to bring an enquiring mind, as you will be discussing, debating and forming your own opinions. Along with this, we encourage Internet and library research, films and video clips and visits to historical sites, to broaden your understanding of a topic.

Key Facts

Award: GCSE History

Exam Board: Edexcel

Assessment: 100% Examination

3 Units:

Thematic study and historical environment.

1hr 20 minutes 30%

Period Study and British Depth Study
55minutes (20%) each

Modern Depth Study

1hr 30 minutes 30%

Progression:

A Level History.

History complements a range of other subjects including Archaeology, Economics, Classics, English, Law and Politics.

Further Information:

Mr I Woodward

GCSE Music

FAQ's

What standard do I need to have reached? Ideally, you need to be Grade 3 or 4 standard on an instrument (or voice) by the end of the course.

Can a student take it if they're not currently having instrumental lessons?

We strongly recommend you to have lessons for the duration of the whole course, but exceptions can be made if you're at a high standard and practice regularly, particularly for vocalists. Bursaries can be applied for to help with costs. Failure to practice an instrument can significantly impact your grade.

What if I don't read music, having learnt by ear? You can still take it, as this is taught within the course. We provide software for support when composing.

What and how will I learn?

There are 5 "Areas of Study":

AoS 1 – MY MUSIC

This is a study of your instrument, its range, technical strengths and limitation: how it is used in different ensembles.

AoS 2 – THE CONCERTO THROUGH TIME

Learners should study the Concerto and its development from 1650 to 1910.

AoS 3 – RHYTHMS OF THE WORLD

This includes the study of Indian, African and Samba music

AoS 4 – FILM MUSIC

AoS 5 – CONVENTIONS OF POP

There is a big practical element to the course where you learn to compose AND perform and we encourage **high aspirations!**

To complement the course, we offer music clubs, music trips and many opportunities to perform solo or in groups - All you have to do is get involved!

We will stretch your abilities and ask for your full commitment, in return you will have fun studying a subject that inspires you!

Key Facts

GCSE Music

Exam Board: OCR

Assessment

60% Coursework

Two Performances:

1. Solo
2. Duet or Ensemble

Two Compositions:

1. Free Choice
2. Set to a brief from the exam board

40% Listening Exam

Progression:

A Level Music
A Level Music Tech
BTEC Vocational

**Further information:
Ms E Harvey**

Myth Busted:

Music does not stop you getting into a profession such as law or medicine!

Music is highly regarded as an academic subject and so could complement your other studies in leading to a professional career.

Transferable Skills

GCSE music involves written, analytical, practical and social/personal skills such as:

- independent learning
- team working
- performance and presentation skills
- listening
- analytical skills
- confidence and self-esteem
- creativity and self-expression

GCSE Physical Education

Why should I study this subject?

Physical Education is challenging, exciting and enjoyable. It will give you an interactive experience in both theoretical and practical environments. If you are looking for a career in education, medicine, leisure and tourism, public services or armed forces to name but a few, then this is the course for you!

How will I be assessed?

Theory Exam – 60% of final mark.

Practical – 40% of final mark. 10% of this involves analysis/evaluation/training programme. Students will be assessed in three activities in the role of performer.

What practical activities can I take part in?

A range of practical activities are covered and students will be assessed in each one, with the best **three** counting towards the final mark. One team activity (from a choice/list of 19) and one individual activity (from a choice/list of 21). The third activity can be either a team or individual one.

Students will be assessed on their ability to perform effectively under applied conditions, using tactics and rules. Furthermore if you participate in activities outside of school you can be assessed in these, e.g. gymnastics, provided you gain DVD evidence. You can only be assessed as a performer.

PE is supposed to be a practical subject – is there a lot of writing?

The theory element of the course is a very important one; 2 out of 3 lessons will be based in the classroom to ensure that we cover the exam content. Each week, students have past exam questions to complete as homework to recap the learning in the lesson.

Many topics are covered such as:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Physical training
- Movement analysis and use of data
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences

Key Facts

Award: AQA GCSE
Physical Education

40% Practical
60% Theory

Level: GCSE Full
Course

Duration: Two
years

Progression:
Further study at 16+

A Level PE or
Level 3 BTEC Sport

Level 3 Travel and
Tourism

Further
Information:
Mr S Edgell

GCSE Religious Studies

Why should I study this subject?

“Science is what you know. Philosophy is what you don’t know.” (Bertrand Russell)

Religious Studies is a great choice to make for GCSE. It is one of those subjects that raises big questions and gets you thinking about the answers. You will have the opportunity to explore the beliefs, teachings and practices of both Christianity and Islam and then investigate key questions about relationships and families, religion and life, religion, peace and conflict and religion, crime and punishment. You should have an inquisitive mind and be good at communicating your ideas verbally and in writing.

Universities show interest in this qualification as evidence of academic ability coupled with dynamic thinking skills. The ethical element is especially valued for courses in Medicine and Veterinary Nursing, Social Services and Management.

What will I learn?

Beliefs and teachings and Practices (Christianity)

- The nature of God and the Trinity; Biblical accounts of Creation; Beliefs about the afterlife; Jesus, his incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, sin and the means of salvation.
- Worship; Sacraments; Prayer; Pilgrimage; The Church in the community and the wider world; Mission.

Beliefs and teachings and Practices (Islam)

- The six articles of faith; Tawhid; The nature of God; Angels; Predestination; Life after death; Prophethood; The Qur’an and the Torah; Imams.
- Worship, The Five Pillars, Shahadah and Salah; Duties and Festivals, Sawm, Zakah and Hajj.

Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world

- Relationships and families (sex, marriage and divorce; families and gender equality).
- Religion and life (the origins and value of the universe; the origins and value of human life).
- Religion, peace and conflict (religion, violence, terrorism and war; religion and belief in 21st century conflict).
- Religion, crime and punishment (religion, crime and the causes of crime; religion and punishment).

How Will I Learn?

Learning will be through active investigation and analysis of information through discussion, group work, interactive resources and DVDs.

Each topic will be assessed through exam style questions linked to exam criteria.

Key Facts

Award: GCSE Religious Studies

Exam Board - AQA

Assessment: 100% Exam

Beliefs and teachings and Practices (Christianity)

Beliefs and teachings and Practices (Islam)
Exam 1hr 45 minutes
50%

Thematic Studies
Exam 1hr 45 minutes
50%

Progression:
A Level Philosophy & Ethics

Further Information:
Ms C Dufour

Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sports Studies

Why should I study this subject?

Sport is a high-profile and expanding industry and there is a growing need for qualified professionals and capable volunteers. There is a wide range of job roles to progress into such as Activity Leader, Sports Coach, Fitness Instructor and Leisure Assistant.

It's also widely recognised that regular participation in sport and physical activity is highly beneficial both to individuals and to society as a whole. With life expectancy on the increase, there will be continuing focus by government in collaboration with other bodies, to promote sport's benefits and encourage wider take up.

Cambridge Nationals in Sport offer students the solid foundation required for further study or progression into industry. Students will develop a wide range of highly desirable, transferable skills such as communication, problem solving, team working and performing under pressure. As you might expect, both the bulk of learning and assessment is through practical means.

How will I learn?

There are 4 units in total; 2 mandatory units (one of which is a formal written exam) and 2 optional units. The non-examinable units are assessed within the school and are then externally moderated by the OCR exam board.

See the black box below for further information regarding the optional units.

What will I learn?

The Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies takes a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/physical education themes.

Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and sport and the media.

Students will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry.

Key Facts

Award:

OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies

Exam Board:

OCR

Mandatory Units:

Unit R051: Contemporary issues in sport

Unit R052: Developing sports skills

Optional Units:

R053: Sports leadership

R054: Sport and the media

R055: Working in the sports industry

R056: Developing knowledge and skills in outdoor activities

Progression: Level 3 Apprenticeship Framework, BTEC National in Sport or Cambridge Technicals Level 3

Further Information:

Mr I Britten

GCSE Separate Science

Why I should study these subjects?

If you have a keen interest in Science, consider yourself likely to take one or more Sciences at A Level or have a Science based career in mind, Separate Science could be for you. It will give you the opportunity to do more practical and project work, expand your science understanding and give you a broader knowledge base than Combined Science GCSE alone (easing the transition to A level study).

The Course

GCSE study in the sciences provides the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's prosperity. All students will be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science.

Taking this option allows you to upgrade the required Combined Science GCSE to separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs.

Separate Science is taught as three separate subjects.

Students will gain a separate GCSE for Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 in total)

Separate Sciences are academic subjects desired by top universities as they are classed as facilitating subjects. Having separate Sciences on a UCAS application will be of benefit when applying for Science based courses at university.

In each of GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics, you study the following:

- All the Combined Science Topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Further material which will convert the Combined 2 GCSEs into 3 Separate Science GCSEs.
- 18 Core Practicals (6 for each subject) compared to the 12 in the Combined Course.

How will I learn?

The GCSEs emphasise explanations, theories and modelling in science along with the implications of science for society. Strong emphasis is placed on the active involvement of candidates in the learning process and each specification encourages a wide range of teaching and learning activities.

Key Facts

For each GCSE:

- Students complete all external exams at the end of the course in Year 11 and will gain 3 GCSE grades

Further Information: Dr C Johns cjohns@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

Level 1/2 Vocational Award in ICT (WJEC)

Why should I study this subject?

Level 1/2 Vocational award in ICT (WJEC) This Vocational Award in ICT will develop students' knowledge and understanding of the ICT sector and provide them with opportunities to develop associated practical skills. It covers ICT in Society; allowing learners to explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software, and ICT in context; introducing learners to a broad working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images to acquire and apply high level creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of ICT.

How will I learn?

This course will:

- Develop your understanding and use of current software to complete tasks and projects.
- Consider the practical role of software and make informed decisions for its use in specific business / work scenarios.

What will I learn?

Unit 1: ICT in Society

This unit allows learners to explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society. They will investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and home use.

Unit 2: ICT in context

This unit enables learners to gain a broad working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images and to apply their knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings.

Key Facts

Award: Level 1/2 Vocational Award in ICT (WJEC)

Exam Board: EDUQUAS
Graded: distinction*, distinction, merit or pass

Unit 1: ICT in Society
On-screen examination: 1 hour 20 minutes
40% of qualification

Unit 2: ICT in Context
Controlled assessment: 40 hours
60% of qualification

Progression: Level 3 Apprenticeship Framework or Level 3 Information Technology

Further Information:
Mr. T Worgan