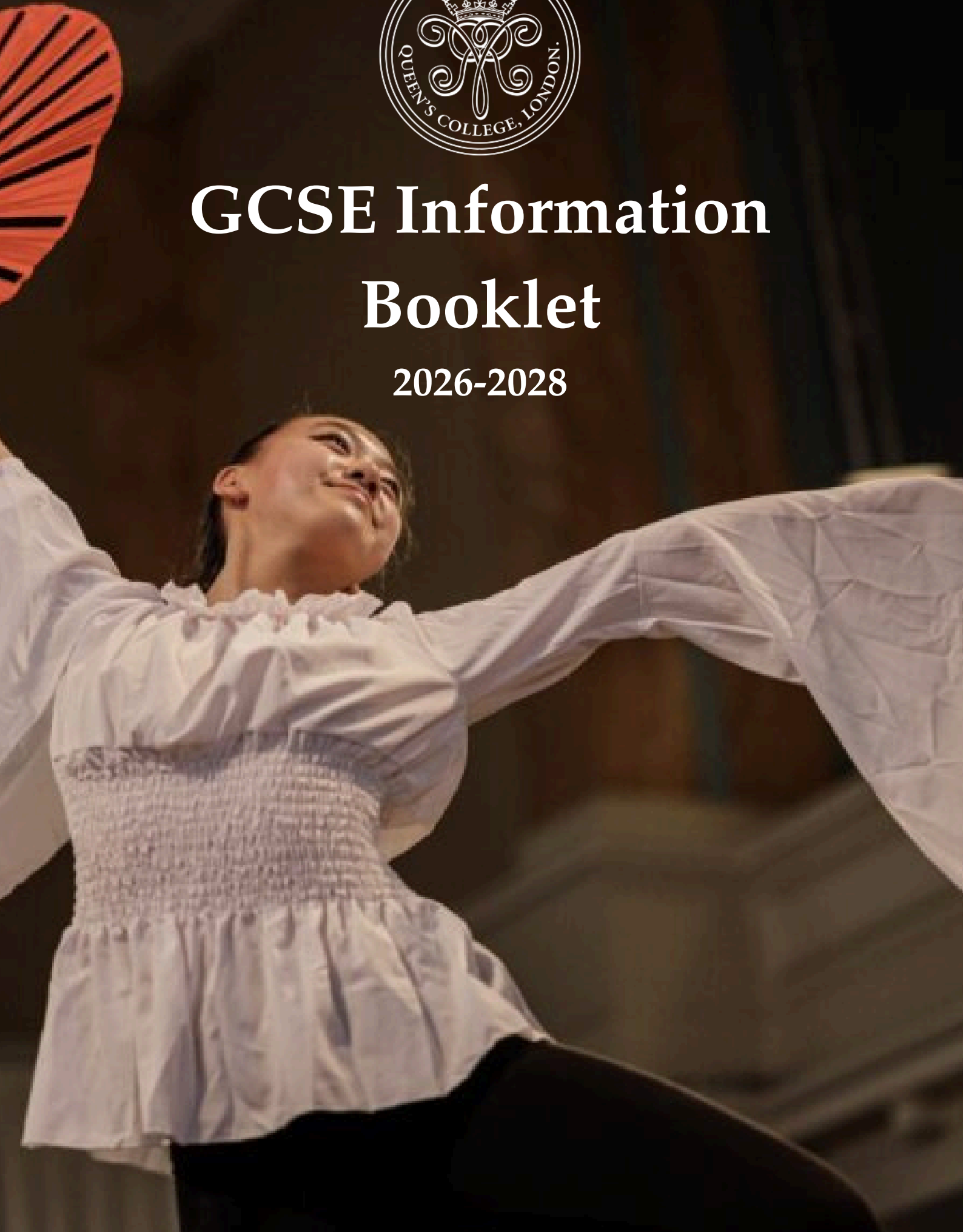




# GCSE Information Booklet

2026-2028



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## *Glossary.*

Classes 3, 2 and 1 - Years 7, 8 and 9

I Juniors (First Juniors) - Year 10

II Juniors (Second Juniors) - Year 11



# GCSE Choices: A Summary

## Your Core Subjects

You must take:

- The core subjects of English Language, English Literature and Mathematics.
- At least two Science subjects. The Science subjects are Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science and Physics. You could choose to take three or all four Science subjects.
- At least one Modern Language or Latin. This could be French, or it could be Italian, Mandarin Chinese or Spanish if you are studying any of these this year. You could choose to continue both Modern Languages you are currently studying.
- Future Frontiers.

You will also have non-examined lessons in:

- Physical Education
- Personal, Social, Health, and Economic education (PSHE)



## Your Options

In addition to Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Future Frontiers, two Sciences and a Modern Language or Latin, you will choose either two or three optional subjects from the list below.

If you choose two optional subjects rather than three you will gain additional periods of Private Study each week.

Optional subjects are:

Art and Design	Dance
Drama	Geography
History	Music
Religious Studies	A third or fourth Science
A second modern language	Latin (in addition to a Modern Language)

- We will try to accommodate all choices, but some combinations of subjects may not be possible to timetable.
- We may need to set minimum or maximum numbers of pupils for some subjects.
- You will have four lessons per week for each of your optional subjects.
- Full details of what the study of each subject involves are included in this booklet.



## Choosing Your Subjects

- Choosing GCSE subjects can involve difficult decisions. Talk to your parents, your subject teachers, members of the Senior College and your form tutors. If you are thinking ahead to university or a career, this may have some influence on your choice but do remember that universities are often very flexible.
- In general, universities will be *more interested in your GCSE grades than in the number of different GCSE subjects you take*. You are able to take ten GCSEs, but nine is also enough. In short: do not sacrifice quality for quantity.
- You will have the opportunity to have a one-to-one meeting with a member of teaching staff if you would like to discuss your options in more detail.
- You will also meet with some current Senior College students who can talk with you about their experiences of choosing and then studying the various GCSE subjects.

- **The important thing is to choose subjects you enjoy because you are likely to do well in them.**
- ***You need to submit your GCSE choices form by Monday 2nd February 2026.***





# Core Subjects

English Language, English Literature, Mathematics,  
Future Frontiers





# English Language and English Literature

During this course, students learn how to write with accuracy and sophistication, and walk away with a lasting enthusiasm for literature.

## English Language

Studying for English Language involves reading a variety of texts and practising writing in many different styles. It develops an understanding of the nuances of language and the ways in which writers use words to give information, describe, persuade, argue and — in some circumstances — manipulate.

It requires grammatical accuracy, an appreciation of English as a global language, and an awareness of the many different contexts in which English is written and spoken. You will be required to summarise material, look closely at the effects of writers' choices of words, and argue points vigorously. Most importantly it gives you the opportunity to write creatively and to develop your own imaginative view of the world.

## Assessment

There are two examinations for English Language. One focuses on reading skills; looking at unseen texts and retrieving information, analysing language and completing some directed writing.



The second paper focuses on directed writing (synthesising information from stimulus texts and creating a piece) and composition (either descriptive or narrative writing). These papers are an opportunity to hone your reading skills and demonstrate your own ability to write with flair, imagination and precision.

### **English Literature**

This involves the study of a wide range of literary texts: plays by Shakespeare, of course, but also works by modern poets, dramatists and novelists. The set books include works from a very wide range of cultures, eras and styles. While most lessons will involve studying a written text, you will find that there is also an opportunity for much lively discussion in class. The critical views of everyone are appreciated.

### **Assessment**

For English Literature, you work towards three examinations: one on prose and poetry; one on drama; and one which requires you to analyse an unseen piece of literature. Preparation for these will give you the opportunity to explore a diverse range of writers and texts.







# Mathematics

IGCSE Mathematics builds on the knowledge and skills developed in Classes 3, 2 and 1, and introduces new topics and techniques. There is a greater focus on developing an understanding of the concepts covered and problem solving, and students can be expected to link multiple techniques to solve a single question.

The majority of pupils will be taking the IGCSE exam at the higher level with the Edexcel examination board. A few pupils may opt to take the foundation paper instead.

## Topics covered

The IGCSE mathematics syllabus has four main sections:

- Number
- Algebra
- Shape, Space and Measure
- Handling Data

## Other GCSE subjects that this subject goes well with

Any subjects which require an understanding of numbers, or the ability to logically solve problems. Some students may wish to study the AQA Certificate Further Maths Level 2. This is an optional qualification currently taught outside of the school day. It is suitable for strong mathematicians, and especially recommended for those considering Further Maths A-level.





## Mathematics

### **Areas of study in future years for which this subject is essential**

Many career choices require GCSE or IGCSE Mathematics at grade 5 or above as a qualification. A good grade is also a requirement for many university courses, even those not directly related to Mathematics or Science. For instance, there is a significant amount of statistics required for courses such as Economics and Business Studies. A good grade in Higher Mathematics at GCSE or IGCSE is certainly required for successful study at A-level in Mathematics or a Science subject.

### **Assessment**

There are two examination papers which are taken at the end of the II Junior year. Students are allowed calculators in both papers and will be expected to show their methods to gain full credit. Each paper accounts for **50%** of the final mark.



# Future Frontiers

Future Frontiers will be launching in September 2026, as part of our new Future Ready curriculum. This course has been endorsed by EDUQUAL as a Level 2 qualification, equivalent to a GCSE.

## Skills workshops

Prior to the course beginning in the Michaelmas Term, all I Junior students will attend six workshops around the themes of: Research, Writing, Creativity, Filming, Presenting, and Planning.

The skills they will cover in these workshops, from critical thinking to film editing, are future-facing and provide an excellent foundation for the academic rigour of the course and requirements of both assessments.

## Course modules

Throughout both modules, students will cover interdisciplinary themes on a weekly basis. Tasks linked to skills covered in the previous workshops will be integrated into teaching and learning.

Module 1: What does it mean to be human?

- How can we understand the human mind and body?
- How can we understand various human experiences through art?
- How can we relate fashion to what it means to be human?



- How does our sense of place and time allow us to understand what it means to be human?
- What does it mean to be human?
- How can we use our reflections on what it means to be human, to be effective global citizens?

### **Module 2: How can we prepare for the future?**

- How can we prepare for the future and what is AI?
- How are we going to use AI effectively in the future?
- Are we prepared for the future of finance?
- How does art and culture incorporate future thinking?
- What is the world of work going to be like in the future?
- What will the environment be like in a future world?

### **Assessment**

Module 1: *Academic poster based on one of the interdisciplinary topics in this module* - 50% of final grade.

- Students will be taught how to create an academic poster that reflects their research and title.

Module 2: *Ted-style talk on a chosen title, linked to a real world application* - 50% of final grade.





# Sciences

Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics







# Biology

Biology is the Science that focuses on the study of life and helps answer some of the most important questions that humans ask about existence and their relationships with other living things. The exciting AQA course, which we begin teaching in Class 1, provides students with lots of opportunities to learn about how living things work and develop their skills in logical thinking, argumentation and analysing evidence.

Biology GCSE is the gateway to studying the subject at A-level and beyond. The fastest moving of the Sciences, it is the one which will help humans save the planet, provide food for all and improve health. There is no better time to be studying this fantastic subject.

The GCSE course is divided into modules which cover every aspect of biology, broadly focused on:

- Biochemistry
- Transport systems in animals and plants
- Energy in living things
- Cellular biology
- Defence
- Control and coordination



- Genetics
- Ecology
- Food Security
- Biotechnology
- Evolution
- Human influences on the environment

Practical and investigative work is central to the way students learn in Biology and many lessons are focused on supporting the learning of theory through observation and experimentation. Alongside this, students complete a series of Required Practicals which are closely linked to the syllabus.

## **Homework**

We use a range of tasks to help students consolidate their knowledge, prepare for subsequent lessons and develop their skills in answering examination questions.

## **Assessment**

Students sit two papers at the end of the course. Both papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes long and account for 50% of the GCSE grade. There is no coursework.





# Chemistry

Chemistry provides the foundations for understanding both the material world and the natural world on a molecular level. It allows us to appreciate its relevance in our everyday lives such as in the medical, cosmetic, agriculture, plastics and potable water industries as well as understanding its role in current issues such as climate change.

We currently follow the AQA specification and the three-year course begins in Class I. Alongside this, students complete a series of Required Practicals which are embedded within the curriculum. The course provides students with many transferable skills including investigative, practical experimentation, evaluative, analytical, problem-solving, mathematical and communication skills; all which are extremely useful for any career path taken in the future.

The GCSE course is divided into topics which cover every aspect of chemistry, broadly focused on:

- Atomic structure
- Bonding
- Quantitative Chemistry
- Chemical changes



- Energy changes
- Rate of reactions
- Organic Chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

## **Homework**

We use a range of tasks to help students consolidate their knowledge, prepare for subsequent lessons and develop their skills in answering examination questions.

## **Assessment**

Students sit two papers at the end of the course. Both papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes long and account for 50% of the GCSE grade. There is no coursework.

# Computer Science

Computer Science covers nearly every aspect of our lives. Class 1 pupils will have had experience learning some of the theoretical content taught in this course, including system architecture and data representation. Towards the end of Class 1, they will also gain experience coding in Python, which is essential for the course.

It must not be confused with an IT qualification. As can be seen by the course content, Computer Science is about coding and computational thinking as well as how computers work. Computer Science teaches logical reasoning, algorithmic thinking, design and structured problem solving - all of which are particularly valuable concepts and skills well beyond the classroom.

Computer Science is incredibly varied in terms of the skill requirements. Both papers are content heavy. Paper 1 covers not only mathematical topics but the theory about how the internet works, the workings of hardware inside and outside of our computers, cyber security and emerging technology. Paper 2 covers Boolean logic, algorithms and programming. Having an interest in the technological world around us is essential and, as in all the sciences, a curiosity about future developments is an advantage.

Pupils need to be excellent mathematicians and access to a computer device is highly recommended in order to practice coding at home. All of the coding software is free.





## **Assessment**

**Paper 1: Computer Systems** - Written paper, 1 hour 45 minutes, 75 marks.

This is a question paper, consisting of short-answer and structured questions set on Section 1 of the subject content. It broadly covers:

- Data representation including binary, hexadecimal, image and sound sampling and file compression
- Data transmission including networking and protocols
- Hardware and software
- The internet and its uses
- Automated and emerging technologies

**Paper 2: Algorithms, Programming and Logic** - written paper, 1 hour 45 minutes, 75 marks.

This paper consists of short-answer, long-answer and structured questions set on Section 2 of the Subject content. Students will also be faced with unseen programming scenario questions. It broadly covers:

- Algorithm design and problem-solving
- Flowcharts and pseudocode
- Programming
- Databases
- Boolean logic



# Physics

Physics is the branch of Science concerned with the nature and properties of matter and energy. It is focused on modelling the world around us to better understand how it works in order to make predictions about it.

In Class 1, we start the AQA examination board syllabus for Physics. It builds a basic knowledge and understanding of physical facts, concepts and principles.

Good Physics students should have:

- A logical approach to problem solving
- Strong mathematical ability
- A curious and questioning mind
- Desire to understand the world around them
- Ability to recall equations to use in calculations

The GCSE course is divided into topics which cover every aspect of physics:

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Space physics



## **Homework**

We use a range of tasks to help students consolidate their knowledge, prepare for subsequent lessons and develop their skills in answering examination questions.

## **Assessment**

Students sit two papers at the end of the course. Both papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes long and account for 50% of the GCSE grade. There is no coursework.



# Modern Languages & Latin

French, Italian, Latin, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish







# French

## Why take French as a GCSE?

*“Avoir une autre langue, c’est posséder une deuxième âme - To have a second language, is to have a second soul,” Charlemagne.*

French is a beautiful, complex and sophisticated Latin language, spoken by more than 70 million people as a first language. It is the third most important language for UK citizens to be able to speak, according to the British Council, in economic, cultural, social and business contexts. Top universities and employers value and welcome linguists; the more modern languages, the better!

## What will I be studying?

The topics areas studied include: everyday activities, personal and social life, the world around us, the world of work and modern issues affecting French-speaking countries and the wider world.

In addition to your lessons in the II Junior year you will also have a weekly conversation lesson with Mme Hanniquet. You will have the opportunity to broaden your cultural horizons through outings to the cinema, galleries or the theatre, as well as through authentic resources used in class.





There is grammar and vocabulary to learn, and our students enjoy learning through games and online resources, but also enjoy watching French films or clips, listening to songs and learning about places in France.

Pupils can take part in the French Exchange and have the opportunity to spend a weekend in Paris to put their learning into practice. You can also sign up for the online language exchange, Spellian, to practise your French with a student in France.

### **Is it for me?**

Languages are a great asset in so many different university courses and careers, so we would recommend that you do two. Our results are strong and good grades in a GCSE modern language are highly prized. If you decide you only want to do one modern language and cannot decide between the two, then go with your instinct – it is important to love the language you study!

### **Assessment**

We follow the Edexcel IGCSE French course. You will take an oral examination in March or April of the II Junior year and there will be three further examinations at the end of that year which will assess your listening, reading and writing skills.





# Italian

## **Why take Italian as a GCSE?**

*“Una lingua diversa è una diversa visione della vita - A different language is a different vision of life,”* Federico Fellini.

Italian is a beautiful, exciting Latin language and is also the sixth most important language for UK citizens, according to the British Council, in economic, cultural, social and business contexts. Top universities and employers value and welcome linguists; the more modern languages, the better!

## **What will I be studying?**

The topics areas studied include: everyday activities, personal and social life, the world around us, the world of work and modern issues affecting Italy and wider world, such as environmental concerns. You will also have the opportunity to broaden your cultural horizons through outings to galleries and the cinema, as well as through authentic resources used in class.

There is grammar and vocabulary to learn, but there are lots of cultural aspects besides. The use of one-to-one devices at this level will also help you develop independent listening and learning skills, particularly by making use of the extensive list of internet resources made available to language students.



The specification for languages involves making use of four practical skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In Italian, you will be prepared for the CIE IGCSE syllabus.

You will be given Italian magazines and occasionally shown films in Italian whilst making the most of art galleries featuring Italian art in London. There is the opportunity to practise your Italian in the annual trip to Urbania and to take part in the online language exchange, Spellian, with an Italian student in Italy.

### **Is it for me?**

Languages are a great asset in so many different university courses and careers so we would recommend that you do two. Our results are strong and good grades in a GCSE modern language are highly prized. If you decide you only want to do one modern language and cannot decide between the two, then go with your instinct – it is important to love the language you study!

### **Assessment**

We follow the Cambridge IGCSE Italian course. You will take an oral examination at the end of March of the II Junior year and there will be three further examinations at the end of that year which will assess your listening, reading and writing skills.



# Spanish

## **Why take Spanish as a GCSE?**

*“Por tantos hombres vales cuantas son las lenguas que hables - As many languages as you know, so many separate individuals you are worth,”* Carlos V, Rey de España.

Spanish is a beautiful, complex and sophisticated Latin language, spoken by more than 400 million people as a first language. It is the most important language for UK citizens to be able to speak according to the British Council, in economic, cultural, social and business contexts. Top universities and employers value and welcome linguists; the more modern languages, the better!

## **What will I be studying?**

The topics areas studied include: everyday activities, personal and social life, the world around us, the world of work and modern issues affecting the Spanish-speaking and wider world, such as environmental and health issues. You will also have the opportunity to broaden your cultural horizons through outings to the cinema and galleries, as well as through authentic resources used in class.



There is grammar and vocabulary to learn, but there are lots of fascinating topics besides. Our pupils love the online resources we use, as well as watching Hispanic films and clips and learning about South America. There is a fabulous trip to Spain which is a great way to explore Spanish culture and improve your language skills. You can also do an online language exchange with a pupil in Spain.

### **Is it for me?**

Languages are a great asset in many different university courses and careers so we would recommend that you do two. Our results are strong, and good grades in a GCSE modern language are highly prized. If you decide you only want to do one modern language and cannot decide between the two, then go with your instinct – it is important to love the language you study!

### **Assessment**

We follow the Edexcel IGCSE Spanish course. You will take an oral examination in March or April of the II Junior year and there will be three further examinations at the end of that year which will assess your listening, reading and writing skills.



# Your Options

Your options could also include a third or fourth  
Science, or a second Modern Language



# Art & Design

*“Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.”* Georgia O’Keeffe.

## **Why study GCSE Art and Design?**

- You want to be creative and imaginative and have a particular passion for Visual Art.
- You would like to continue to develop your creative skills.
- You like problem solving in a practical way.
- You enjoy learning and researching about artists and designers.
- You have an interest in an Art based career.

## **What will you study?**

GCSE Art and Design lets you explore your creative side. The course is mainly practical including the examination at the end of the course. You will include some written annotations and research in your sketchbook.

During the course you will:

- Explore a variety of different creative catalysts.
- Be introduced to new skills, techniques, processes and materials.





- Create a portfolio of artwork that could include painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, installation, printmaking.
- Develop your style as an artist.
- Learn how to develop your ideas, evaluate and review your own work.
- Visit relevant galleries and museums.

### **Assessment**

We follow the Edexcel GCSE syllabus in Art and Design. It is divided into two parts, coursework and examination.

The coursework is worth 60% of your overall grade and the examination is worth 40%.

The coursework is one large portfolio of your best work created over the I Juniors and II Juniors years and the examination project is a term-long project which culminates in a 10 hour examination over 2 days.

Both the coursework and the examination are marked against the four following objectives:

- Developing ideas
- Refining ideas
- Recording ideas
- Presenting a personal response



# Dance

## **Why study GCSE Dance?**

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity.

This specification focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of dance and the use of movement to express and communicate ideas through the processes of performance, choreography and appreciation.

Choosing GCSE dance will also provide progression from Key Stage 3 and a solid foundation for further studies in dance or performing arts, including A-level Dance and/or a career in performing.

## **What do you need for the course?**

- A passion for dance
- Creativity and energy
- Desire to learn about all aspects of dance
- Strong foundation in Contemporary technique
- Experience of other dance genres
- Motivation to work hard outside of lesson time





## Assessment

Component 1 (practical)	Component 2 (theory)
<p><u>Performance (30%).</u></p> <p>Set phrases through a solo performance and a duet or trio performance.</p> <p>In the performance component you will study: good studio practice; the technical nature of dance skills; expressive skills; factors which influence the achievement of high quality dance performance.</p> <p><u>Choreography (30%)-</u> Solo or group choreography.</p> <p><i>In the choreography component you will study: The process of creating choreography; choreographic structure; constituent features of dance.</i></p>	<p><u>Dance Appreciation (40%).</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The study of six professional works; <i>Infra</i>, <i>Shadows</i>, <i>Artificial Things</i>, <i>Emancipation of Expressionism</i>, <i>A Lihna Curva</i> and <i>Within Her Eyes</i>.</li> <li>• Critical appreciation of own dance work.</li> </ul> <p><i>Exploring features of production; staging/set, lighting, costume, aural settings, dance for camera.</i></p> <p><i>Studying the meaning of relevant performance terminology, the understanding of the choreographic intent of the work being performed including the mood(s), meaning(s), idea(s), theme(s) and/or style/style fusion(s).</i></p>



# Drama

## Why Drama?

At the heart of the study of Drama is this question:

*How can stories help us understand the world as it is, and how can they encourage us to make it better?*

The Drama Department is a vibrant hub of creative activity offering Edexcel GCSE Drama, and also A-Level Drama and Theatre. Drama combines performance and research. We explore plays and inspirational practitioners from Brecht to Complicite, from Stanislavski to Frantic Assembly and many more. Students develop their own theatrical taste as a critic of live productions. It requires teamwork, communication skills and the ability to think independently. It is a challenging, demanding and rewarding subject, both intellectually and creatively.

Students learn concepts, techniques and performance skills to present collaboratively devised group work, and to perform monologues or duologues. They study set texts in depth examining the script from the point of view of writer, director and actor.

## Where can Drama lead?

Students have gone on to study at drama schools, music and performing arts colleges, as well as leading universities.



Many former pupils are now working professionally within the industry, including recently on BBC Drama. The transferrable skills learnt also stand students in good stead for careers from teaching to medicine, from the law to retail.

### **Who should study Drama?**

There is no one 'type' of Drama student, as the course offers such diverse creative opportunities. Drama is ideal for those who are creative, experimental, thoughtful, logical and collaborative.

### **Assessment**

#### **Component 1: Devising (40%) (Internally assessed)**

Students devise an original piece from stimuli. They must produce a written portfolio of 2000 words and the devised performance/design realisation.

#### **Component 2: Performance from text (20%) (Externally assessed by visiting examiner)**

Students present two monologues or duologues from a play. This text must be from a contrasting time period, playwright and genre to their Component 3 set text.

#### **Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40%) (Externally assessed)**

Students will sit one 1 hour 45 minute exam. This will ask students to evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen, and explain how they would bring to life an extract from a set play text they have studied from the point of view of a director, designer and actor.





# Geography

## Why study Geography?

Geography bridges earth sciences, social sciences and the arts, so it is an excellent choice for anyone to have in their GCSE subject mix.

It is well suited to those who:

- Are curious about places, people and amazing landscapes.
- Care about the future of our natural world and the cities we live in.
- Want to be a global citizen with the world at your fingertips.

Bankers, journalists, insurance under-writers, publishers, management consultants, business entrepreneurs, lawyers, geologists, disaster managers, diplomats... the list of high-profile careers with a foundation in geography is endless! Geography is one of the most useful subjects for a great range of jobs and students of geography remain among the most employable.

Geographers develop an incredibly broad range of general knowledge and understanding of the world around us through studying contemporary issues in depth. In GCSE Geography you will investigate issues such as disaster management, climate change, rainforest conservation, poverty reduction and London's socio-economic divide. Studying Geography can empower you to become a future leader of change.





Alongside studying an even mix of human and physical geography, you will also have the opportunity to get out into the real world and see geography in action. The best way to truly understand the world is to be immersed in places and have a hands-on approach to investigating the processes taking place. As part of your GCSE course, you will take part in a residential field trip to a UK location where we will be looking at both physical and human investigations. There may also be the opportunity for international travel... We love Geography and we want you to love it too!

Geography GCSE is an excellent foundation for further study in a wide range of subjects and is often cited as the best facilitating subject by Russell Group universities. We would encourage all students to develop their global awareness through continuing their study of the subject; without geography, you're nowhere.

### **Assessment**

We follow the AQA Geography GCSE (8035) which is divided into three written papers – physical geography, human geography and fieldwork. The fieldwork investigations are very important and attendance on field trips is compulsory so that you can prepare fully for the demands of the examination. Throughout the course you will also develop your skills interpreting maps, images, numerical data and graphs, which supports your mathematical acumen.





# History

History is an exciting intellectual discipline that teaches you how to think, not what to think. You will gain knowledge and understanding of the past, learn the skills of analysis, evaluation and source work and construct rational and supported arguments about human affairs.

## Aims and Objectives

- To meet the requirements of the CAIE Modern World syllabus 0977.
- To acquire and communicate knowledge and understanding of the human past.
- To investigate and analyse historical changes, events and issues.
- To use historical sources critically and effectively in their context.

## Topics covered

The course explores key 20th century events. It combines international relations with the study of an individual country and their politics, society, economy and culture.

Highlights include: the Treaty of Versailles, the League of Nations, the causes of the Second World War, Germany from 1918-1945 and the impact of the Cold War on international relations.



## **Future Potential**

Every subject has an historical dimension, which enriches your area of study. The importance of research, argument and debate in History make it a useful subject for Politics, the Media, Law, Philosophy and Journalism.

## **Assessment**

There are two examination papers. Paper 1 consists of structured questions worth 4, 6 and 10 marks (40%). Paper 2 is the source paper (30%) and the coursework is a 2000-word essay (30%) on the significance of a historical person or event. The coursework is based on a Germany Depth Study topic.

# Latin

## Why study Latin?

The Eduqas Latin GCSE is an engaging and varied course which incorporates elements of history, literature and philosophy as well as language. Latin will equip you with many valuable transferable skills. You will strengthen your command of English and other languages and will gain skills of close analysis, critical thinking and logical argument.

These skills will serve you well on any path you choose to take at A-Level, university and beyond. A GCSE in Latin will indicate to universities and employers that you are a highly skilled candidate who embraces challenge.

Classically trained graduates are successful across a wide range of careers, including law, medicine, banking, engineering, journalism, education, science, comedy, civil and diplomatic services and academia. At Queen's, Latin pupils have the opportunity to go on trips, attend talks, participate in seminars and competitions and help with our onsite museum of real ancient artefacts.

## What will you study?

The course is broken down into 50% study of language and 50% study of literature and Roman sources.





## **Language:**

You will continue to develop your language skills through translations into Latin, comprehensions, grammar exercises and learning vocabulary. However, at GCSE the range of stories is much more exciting! You will gain a rich understanding of ancient history and attitudes through exploring a wide variety of historical and mythological tales.

## **Literature:**

The really magical element of studying Latin at GCSE is the opportunity to engage with genuine Roman literature. You will translate, discuss and analyse the same texts that the Romans read.

## **You will learn:**

- To appreciate how authors manipulate language to move, shock and amuse their audience.
- About the historical and cultural context within which the texts were composed.
- To integrate discussion on non-literary sources into discussion of literary sources.
- To present your ideas clearly and articulately in essays.

## **Assessment**

- 50% Latin language
  - 1 paper – translations, comprehensions and grammar
- 50% Latin literature
  - Coursework 1: 30% - Heroes and Villains
  - Coursework 2: 20% - Set Text Story





# Music

In this broad and exciting course, you have the opportunity to develop your all-round musicianship as a performer, composer and listener. The Edexcel course is structured around three units: Performing Music; Composing Music; Listening and Appraising. GCSE Music students also enjoy concerts, trips and workshops as part of the course.

## Areas of Study

We analyse music in groups called 'Areas of Study'. These underpin questions in the Listening & Appraising examination (40%). This means you will study a wide range of music from different genres learning about how the music is written and its influences, and how the elements of music are exploited by the composers to successfully create their music.

The four Areas of Study are:

1. Instrumental Music 1700-1820
2. Vocal Music
3. Music for Stage and Screen
4. Fusions.

The scores you will study range from music by Beethoven and Purcell to Queen's 'Killer Queen' and music from 'Star Wars'!



## Course requirements

You should have reached a performing standard of at least Grade 4 (or equivalent) at the start of the course and should be able to read music fluently from traditional Western notation. It is recommended that you aim to complete your ABRSM Grade 5 theory examination by the Michaelmas Term of I Juniors if you have not already done so. GCSE Music students are expected to participate in the extra-curricular life of the department by belonging to one of our ensembles or choirs and participating in concerts. All GCSE music students must have instrument or singing lessons as a requirement of the course.

## Assessment

<b>Unit 1: Performing music</b>	You will record a solo and an ensemble performance lasting a minimum of 4 minutes in total	30% of the total GCSE mark (completed as coursework)
<b>Unit 2: Composing music</b>	You will write two compositions using Sibelius software – they will last for a minimum of 3 minutes in total	30% of the total GCSE mark (completed as coursework)
<b>Unit 3: Music – listening and appraising</b>	A 1 ¾ hour written paper on set works we study during the course	40% of the total GCSE mark





# Religious Studies

- *What is the value of life, and should we be able to choose how we die?*
- *Do rich people have a responsibility towards the poor?*
- *Can we make free choices or are we determined by our genes and upbringing?*
- *Is it possible for more than one religion to be true?*

If these are the sort of questions which interest you, then this is a course that you will enjoy. It is accessible to students of any religious persuasion and none.

## **What is it all about?**

IGCSE Religious Studies teaches students a deep understanding of diverse beliefs and values, encouraging critical thinking and cultural awareness. It's an excellent choice for developing empathy, ethical reasoning, and global perspectives, which are invaluable skills in today's interconnected world. This subject also encourages personal reflection and spiritual growth, allowing you to shape and form your own worldviews whilst learning about others.

## **Future careers**

In general, you will improve your writing, reading and debating skills as well as your ability to empathise, think critically and analyse ideas.





If you are considering philosophy, theology, anthropology, law, psychology, journalism or politics in the long-term, you will profit a great deal from this course.

### **What co-curricular opportunities are available with this course?**

The course is full of amazing opportunities to study Religious Studies outside of the classroom, such as visiting Cambridge Central Mosque (the first eco-mosque in all of Europe to be fully carbon-zero) and the beautiful St Paul's Cathedral (where you will be guided along the cathedral and its galleries, whilst also having the opportunity to ask questions to a local priest). We also aim to take students abroad once every two years, either to Rome, Amsterdam or Krakow, in conjunction with the Classics, History or Geography departments to explore how religion is practiced across Europe.

### **Assessment**

We study the Pearson Edexcel IGCSE in Religious Studies, which is composed of two examinations. Paper 1 focuses on Beliefs and Values – which is a largely philosophical and ethical paper, that looks at religions from a very holistic point of view. Paper 2 focuses The Religious Community, where our chosen religion is Islam.



# Non-Examined Subjects

Physical Education, PSHE, optional Duke of Edinburgh  
Bronze Award





# Physical Education

In I Juniors the pupils will participate in the normal Physical Education curriculum of an afternoon (four lessons) at either Regents Park (for netball, cricket and rounders) or Parliament Hill (for athletics) each week. In II Juniors the pupils are given a choice of a variety of activities such as bouldering, ice skating, fitness suite and netball for their Games afternoon.

In addition to the weekly scheduled PE offer, all of the competitive sports in the College remain in place. These are:

- Cheer
- Netball
- Athletics
- Cross Country
- Dance
- Football



# PSHE

Pupils will receive a single period of personal, social and health education each week. These sessions will focus on a wide variety of different topics and will be delivered by the form tutor or external speakers who are trained in the relevant area. The topics may include, but are not limited to, the list below:

- Target setting
- Study skills, stress and time management
- Relationships and sex education
- Adolescent health/ Mental health
- Nutrition
- Relaxation skills
- Addictions (Drugs, Alcohol)
- Money management
- Careers
- Global and environmental issues
- Safety on the internet





# Duke of Edinburgh Award

Current Class 1 pupils can opt to take the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award, which is an extra-curricular activity.

The Bronze Award consists of four sections:

- Volunteering
- Physical
- Skills
- Expedition (on foot)

Pupils can choose what they do for each of the above sections, although this must be approved by Mr Kohut (Duke of Edinburgh Awards Manager). They then undertake each activity for a minimum of one hour a week. Two sections must be done for three months and the third for six months. Participants can choose which they do for the longer period. All attendance and progress is recorded on the Duke of Edinburgh Award website. Pupils can do all the sections at the same time or choose to spread them out – there is no time limit on completion.

Preparation is undertaken at school with Mr Kohut, and also by attending a one-day training course run by *Mountainwise* (a company who organise and assess DofE expeditions). The course for the current Class 1 pupils will be on a school day in April 2026 in Harlow, Essex. We will travel by coach together leaving school at 8am and returning by 5.30pm.



## *Duke of Edinburgh Award*

The Bronze expedition covers two days with one night camping. In order to pass this section, pupils must complete a practice expedition weekend and an assessment weekend. These are organised by the school and parents will be advised of dates. Please note, parents will need to arrange transportation for their daughter to and from the campsites in Essex on these weekends. The total cost of the expeditions, including training and hire of equipment, is anticipated to be £395.

For further information, visit the Duke of Edinburgh Award website at [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org) or contact Sean Kohut on [skohut@qcl.org.uk](mailto:skohut@qcl.org.uk).

There will be an information evening early in the summer term for the parents of those Class 1 pupils who register to take the award.



# Summary of Subject Specifications

Subject	GCSE	IGCSE	Examination board	Specification
English Language		Yes	CAIE	990
English Literature		Yes	CAIE	992
Mathematics		Yes	Edexcel	4MA1
Future Frontiers	Equivalent*		EduQual	N/A
Biology	Yes		AQA	8461
Chemistry	Yes		AQA	8462
Physics	Yes		AQA	8463
French		Yes	Edexcel	4FR1
Italian		Yes	CAIE	535
Spanish		Yes	Edexcel	4SP1
Art and Design	Yes		Edexcel	IAD0



## Summary of Subject Specifications (cont.)

Subject	GCSE	IGCSE	Examination board	Specification
Computer Science		Yes	CAIE	984
Dance	Yes		AQA	8236
Drama	Yes		Edexcel	1DR0
Geography	Yes		AQA	8035
History		Yes	CAIE	977
Latin	Yes		Eduqas	C990
Music	Yes		Edexcel	1MU0
Religious Studies		Yes	Edexcel	4RS1

\* *Future Frontiers is a Level 2 qualification, equivalent to a GCSE.*





