

PENKETH HIGH SCHOOL

OPTIONS EVENING

KEY STAGE 4 2017



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Principal's Letter

Welcome to our Key Stage 4 Curriculum Evening,

More than ever, pupils preparing to enter Key Stage 4 will be preparing for a world that is changing very fast and preparing for careers that may not yet exist or that will at least change dramatically during a working life. For that reason, it is essential we ensure that all pupils have a broad and balanced curriculum without too much specialisation at this stage. Key Stage 4 will involve preparing for national examinations, usually GCSE, and what many people see as the building blocks for future study and preparation for career development.

The first important point to make is that all pupils will follow a core curriculum of English Language and English Literature, Mathematics, Science, ICT, P.E. and Learning for Life (Citizenship and R.E). We believe this gives pupils a 'broad and balanced' curriculum and a firm platform for future specialised study, career development and adult life. In addition to the core, pupils will be placed in 1 of 3 curriculum pathways that best meet the needs and opportunities for success for each pupil.

We have used our Ensuring Progress and Success (EPS) ethos to name the 3 Bands. Each band has been identified using information about progress on entry from KS2 and from our own progress data.

E Band

Broadly speaking, the E Band will follow what many might term an academic curriculum that offers pupils access to a version of the English Baccalaureate model with emphasis on all pupils following a Modern Foreign Language (German or Spanish); a Humanities subject (Geography or History) as well as access to the 3 separate Sciences with pupils having the choice to follow Chemistry, Physics and Biology. In addition, all pupils will be given the chance to follow a creative arts course from a large selection of subjects in the open option line.

(Total = 10.5 GCSEs)

P Band

P Band will still offer pupils access to English Baccalaureate subjects but with one main difference. Pupils will follow a broad Science course (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) leading to 2 x GCSE passes (Dual Award Science). As with E Band, all pupils will study a Humanity and a Modern Foreign Language in addition to a variety of options in the open option lines.

(Total = 10.5 GCSEs)

S Band

In this Band, all pupils will follow the Core GCSE subjects of English, Maths and Science, ICT, PE and Learning for Life but will have additional curriculum time for English, Maths and Science in Year 9. We are offering a reduced range of option subjects with pupils choosing from one option line in the first instance. Pupils will study a Humanities based course in Year 9 which will focus on developing an important skill set that will allow them to perform well in controlled assessments or coursework elements required by other subjects. We feel that this foundation year and programme of study will ensure that all pupils are successful across Year 10 and 11 and are able to achieve at least 5 GCSE passes or other accreditations that will help build the correct pathway into further education.

(Total = 8.5 GCSEs)

At the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Evening, we will outline the thinking behind our Curriculum Model and give parents and pupils opportunities to not only discuss banding with senior staff but an opportunity to find out more about different courses and what might be the best choices for each pupil.

I urge all pupils and parents to take the time to read this booklet carefully, and to heed the advice offered about making choices. If you would like any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Carlin (Vice Principal) or Mrs Jones (Future Pathways).

Making decisions can be exciting but once made they only ever become the right decisions if you have the right attitude and approach towards future study. We don't choose success; we need to make it happen.

Be aspirational, dare to dream about what the future holds and I hope you enjoy the evening.

Best Wishes,

Mr J Carlin

Principal

EPS Contacts

Subject Contacts

Art@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Business@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Dance@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Drama@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
English@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Geography@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
History@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
ICT@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Languages@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Learningforlife@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Maths@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Media@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Music@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
PE@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Science@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Technology@penketh.warrington.sch.uk

Careers Advice - Mrs Jones	MJones@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Principal - Mr Carlin	JCarlin@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Vice Principal – Mrs J Wright	JWright@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Consultant Vice Principal – Mr I Syed	ISyed@penketh.warrington.sch.uk
Assistant Principal – Mrs A Turner	ATurner@penketh.warrington.sch.uk

KS4 Curriculum Model (2017 - 2020)

E Band

Subject	Hours	GCSEs	Notes
English	8	2	GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature
Mathematics	9	1	GCSE Mathematics
Science	8	2	GCSE Science GCSE Additional Science
Computer Science	4	1	GCSE Computer Science / Cambridge National Award in ICT
Learning for Life	3	1.5	GCSE Citizenship Studies GCSE Religious Studies (Short Course)
Physical Education	2	-	Core PE (Not Examined)
Humanities	6	1	EITHER GCSE Geography OR GCSE History
Language	6	1	EITHER GCSE German OR GCSE Spanish
Open Option (Inc Triple Science)	4	1	EITHER GCSE Art and Design OR GCSE Business Studies OR GCSE Dance OR GCSE Design Technology OR GCSE Digital Art OR GCSE Drama OR GCSE Film Studies OR GCSE Music OR NCFE Music Technology OR GCSE Science (Triple Award) OR BTEC Sport OR GCSE Textiles

Total: 10.5 GCSEs or Equivalent

P Band

Subject	Hours	GCSEs	Notes
English	8	2	GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature
Mathematics	9	1	GCSE Mathematics
Science	8	2	GCSE Dual Award Science
ICT	4	1	Cambridge National Award in ICT / GCSE Computer Science
Learning for Life	3	1.5	GCSE Citizenship Studies GCSE Religious Studies (Short Course)
Physical Education	2	-	Core PE (Not Examined)
Humanities	6	1	EITHER GCSE Geography OR GCSE History
Language	6	1	EITHER GCSE German OR GCSE Spanish
Open Option	4	1	EITHER GCSE Art and Design OR GCSE Business Studies OR GCSE Dance OR GCSE Design Technology OR GCSE Digital Art OR GCSE Drama OR GCSE Film Studies OR GCSE Music OR NCFE Music Technology OR BTEC Sport OR GCSE Textiles

Total: 10.5 GCSEs or Equivalent

S Band

Subject	Hours	GCSEs	Notes
English	10	2	GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature
Mathematics	10	1	GCSE Mathematics
Science	10	2	GCSE Dual Award Science
Humanities	6	-	Entry Level Diploma in Humanities
ICT	4	1	Cambridge National Award in ICT
Learning for Life	4	1.5	GCSE Citizenship Studies GCSE Religious Studies (Short Course)
Physical Education	2	-	Core PE (Not Examined)
Open Option	4	1	EITHER GCSE Art and Design OR GCSE Design Technology OR GCSE Film Studies OR NCFE Music Technology OR BTEC Sport

Total: 8.5 GCSEs or Equivalent

Core Subjects

English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Dual Award Science
Computer Science
ICT
Entry Pathways in Humanities (S Band Only)
Learning for Life (Citizenship Studies)
Learning for Life (Religious Studies)



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Miss S E Ashurst SAshurst@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

The English Language GCSE focuses on crucial reading, writing, and speaking and listening skills. Students are given the opportunity to write for a range of different purposes and audiences and learn how to adapt their writing to the requirements of different styles. They read a range of fiction and non-fiction, examine key conventions of different types of text and learn to analyse those texts in detail. Pupils will also have the opportunity to develop their speaking and listening skills.

What Will I Study?

- Literary fiction (prose) from either the 20th or 21st century, including extracts from novels and short stories, with focus on openings, endings, narrative perspectives and points of view, narrative or descriptive passages, character, atmospheric descriptions and other appropriate narrative and descriptive approaches.
- How to write creative narrative or descriptive writing with a designated audience, purpose and form in mind.
- Non-fiction texts writing such as essays reviews and journalism (both printed and online).
- How to write effectively to share an opinion, such as writing to persuade/ argue.
- How to prepare for a spoken presentation on a specific topic.
- How to plan and organise a presentation.
- How to listen to and respond appropriately to questions and feedback.

What Skills Will I Develop?

This course will enable you to:

- Read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism
- Read fluently, and with good understanding
- Read critically, and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve your own writing.
- Write effectively and coherently using standard English appropriately
- Use grammar correctly, and punctuate and spell accurately
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- Listen to and understand spoken language, and use spoken standard English effectively.

Why Study English Language?

Having a good command of the English Language is a desirable skill that is recognised by employers and colleges and the wider world in general. The English Language is the way that we communicate and having a good grasp of it is fundamental.

Assessment

Paper 1 - Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing (50%) 1 Hour 45 Minutes Written Paper

Paper 2 - Writers' Viewpoints & Perspectives (50%) 1 Hour 45 Minutes Written Paper

Non Exam Assessment – Spoken Language - Compulsory but Separately Endorsed

You will be given a separate grade for this – either a Pass, Merit or Distinction

Homework

Students will be given regular homework relating to the topics they are studying at the time. Some homework assignments will be written, others may be revision or reading.

What Could This Course Take Me?

GCSE English Language will allow you to demonstrate your ability to read, write and speak well.

This fundamental skill will be something that employers, apprenticeships and colleges are keen to see you can do – in fact many career pathways will demand a 'good' GCSE in English Language

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Miss S E Ashurst SAshurst@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

The English Literature GCSE focuses on developing crucial reading skills, which will be demonstrated through analytical writing. Students are given the opportunity to read a range of different literary texts including prose, poetry and drama. They will develop the skills of analysis across this range of texts, gaining understanding of the key conventions of these different types of text, learning to analyse those texts in detail.

What Will I Study?

- A Shakespeare play – You will study the whole play and focus in detail on key extracts.
- A 19th Century novel - You will study the whole novel and focus in detail on key extracts.
- A modern novel or play – You will study the whole text.
- Poetry – a cluster based upon a theme: Power & Conflict – you will study both modern poems and poems from our literary heritage.
- Unseen poetry – you will learn how to analyse unseen poetry and how to compare unseen poems.

What Skills Will I Develop?

- The ability to read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, and make connections across your reading
- The skill of reading in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that you are able to discuss and explain your understanding and ideas
- The habit of reading widely and often
- The ability to appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage
- To write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English
- The ability to use a wide vocabulary, including the grammatical terminology and other literary and linguistic terms you need to criticise and analyse what you read.

Why Study English Literature?

Develop your knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking, whilst reading texts that are considered to represent the best of English culture – show that you have what it takes to embrace a wide range of texts with interesting and relevant themes.

Assessment

Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (40%) 1 Hour 45 Minutes Written Paper

Paper 2 – Modern Texts and Poetry (60%) - 2 Hour 15 Minutes Written Paper

Paper 1

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th-Century Novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2

Section A Modern Texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen Poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Homework

Students will be given regular homework relating to the texts they are studying at the time. Some homework assignments will be written, others may be revision or reading.

What Could This Course Take Me?

GCSE English Literature will allow you to demonstrate your ability to read widely and write analytically.

This fundamental skill will be something that all employers, apprenticeships and colleges are keen to see you can do.

GCSE MATHEMATICS

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	Pearson Edexcel
Subject Contact	Ian Farrar IFarrar@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

Maths is one of the big keys that you need to open the door of further education for any course that you want to pursue when you leave Penketh High. You will follow either the Higher course (Grades 4-9) or the Foundation course (Grades 1-5)

What Will I Study?

The course covers a diverse range of mathematics topics including number, algebra, shape and space and data handling. Number topics cover all areas of the curriculum whilst the algebra aspect involves generalising findings in a more abstract way. Shape and space covers the geometry and measures topics so there are many applications to real-life situations here. Data handling involves statistics and probability.

What Skills Will I Develop?

Problem solving and mathematical reasoning are a big focus. Key words and ideas have to be extracted from mathematical problems and the correct knowledge applied to be able to move forwards. The work involved incorporates the functional skills that employers seek, so there are some cross-curricular aspects to the course. Pupils need to be able to use mental methods to solve problems as well as use a calculator effectively.

Why Study Maths?

Maths is one of the subjects that you have to study, and for good reason. A good understanding of maths and the ability to calculate efficiently will help you in all aspects of your future. The language of maths is universal and is one thing that can bring all people around the world together.

Assessment

The course content is linear and pupils are assessed through regular topic tests during years 9, 10 and 11 and three final examinations in May/June of Year 11. The examinations have two tiers of entry leading to a range of GCSE grades:

<i>Level</i>	<i>Grades Available</i>
Foundation	5 4 3 2 1
Higher	9 8 7 6 5 4

Pupils will sit three papers which are 1 hour 30 minutes each. One paper is a non-calculator paper and for the other two papers a calculator will be allowed.

Homework

Students can use written and electronic material for homework. We offer exam board specific revision guides and workbooks and subscribe to the mathswatch website to help them to prepare for examinations.

Where Could This Course Take Me?

Pupils who are likely to achieve a grade 9 at the end of year 11 may be given the opportunity to study a GCSE course in Further Mathematics with an examination in June of year 11. Pupils achieving a grade 7, 8 or 9 at GCSE may be able to study an A Level Maths subject at college.

GCSE SCIENCE DUAL AWARD

Qualification	2.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Mrs D Fox DFox@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

This course is designed to recognise the impact of Science in everyday life. It will allow the learners to make informed decisions about issues that involve science, and help them to understand the information that they will be supplied with. The course covers all areas of science and it would be expected that learners who don't follow the separate science route will choose this option.

What Will I Study?

Biology

- Cell Biology
- Organisation
- Infection and Response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and Response
- Inheritance, Variation and Evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry

- Atomic Structure and The Periodic Table
- Bonding, Structure and The Properties of Matter
- Quantitative Chemistry
- Chemical Changes
- Energy Changes
- The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change
- Organic Chemistry
- Chemical Analysis
- Chemistry of the Atmosphere
- Using Resources

Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism And Electromagnetism
- Particle Model of Matter
- Atomic Structure

What Skills Will I Develop?

This course focuses around working scientifically – being able to investigate scientific concepts and explain them through good knowledge and understanding. This qualification uses contemporary, relevant contexts of interest to candidates, which can be approached through a range of teaching and learning activities.

Why Study Science?

Science is a fundamental course which enables students to explain how everything in their day to day lives works. From “what does a plant need to grow?” to “How are stars formed?” This GCSE course explores the key ideas of Science, encouraging students to investigate and explain their findings.

Assessment

- Paper 1 Biology (16.7%) 1 Hour 15 Minutes Written Exam
- Paper 2 Biology (16.7%) 1 Hour 15 Minutes Written Exam

- Paper 1 Chemistry (16.7%) 1 Hour 15 Minutes Written Exam
- Paper 2 Chemistry (16.7%) 1 Hour 15 Minutes Written Exam

- Paper 1 Physics (16.7%) 1 Hour 15 Minutes Written Exam
- Paper 2 Physics (16.7%) 1 Hour 15 Minutes Written Exam

All students complete a series of practical investigations which are examined as part of the written exams.

Homework

Students are set 45 minutes of homework every week consisting of carrying out research tasks and completing past paper questions.

Where Could This Course Take Me?

The skills gained in GCSE are well valued by both employers and colleges. For those wanting to pursue a career in a scientific field, GCSE Science is a must. Other vocations however, regard the investigative, problem solving and communication skills, which are developed as part of this course, invaluable in their specialisms. From childcare to medicine, Science is an essential course to complete at GCSE.

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	OCR
Subject Contact	Mrs J Thompson JThompson@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

Computer Science is a very practical subject – students will be able to use the knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom on real-world problems. It's also a highly creative subject that calls on learners to be inventive.

What Will I Study?

Computer Systems

- Systems Architecture
- Memory
- Storage
- Wired and Wireless Networks
- Network Topologies, Protocols and Layers
- System Security
- Systems Software
- Moral, Legal, Cultural and Environmental Concerns
- Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming
- Algorithms
- Programming Techniques
- Producing Robust Programs
- Computational Logic
- Translators and Facilities of Languages
- Data Representation

Programming Project

- Programming Techniques
- Analysis
- Design
- Development
- Testing And Evaluation And Conclusions

What Skills Will I Develop?

Valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace.

Computational thinking which will help learners to develop the skills to solve problems and design systems that do so.

Why Study Computer Science?

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy, and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself and as an 'underpinning' subject across science and engineering is growing rapidly. This carefully planned course gives students a real, in depth understanding of how computer technology works. It offers an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.

The Computer Science qualification will, above all else, be relevant to the modern and changing world of computer science. Computer Science is a practical subject where learners can apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-world problems. It is an intensely creative subject that involves invention and excitement. It will value computational thinking, helping learners to develop the skills to solve problems and design systems that do so.

Assessment

Component 01: Computer Systems (40%) 1 Hour 30 Minutes Written Paper

Component 02: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (40%) 1 Hour 30 Minutes Written Paper

Component 03: Programming Project (20%) 20 Hours Coursework

Homework

Most homework will be in the form of theory. A GCSE revision guide and workbook will be used for some of these homework's. There is also a heavy focus on programming skills and so students will be expected to download key software like Python and practice the skills they have learnt in class.

Where Could This Course Take Me?

This course is preparation for learners who want to go on to study Computer Science at AS or A Level and beyond. The qualification will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills.

Key careers include:

- Web Developer
- Software Architect
- Game Designer

CAMBIRDGE NATIONALS ICT

Qualification	Level 1/2 Cambridge National Award in ICT (1.0 GCSE Equivalent)
Exam Board	OCR
Subject Contact	Mrs J Thompson Jthompson@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

This is a vocationally-related qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The everyday use of ICT, from PCs to smartphones, now impacts all of our lives. The Cambridge Nationals in ICT reflects this and provides students with a solid understanding of the subject which they can use in their working lives. Three themes are covered: business information systems, creative and technical.

What Will I Study?

Unit R001: Understanding computer systems

- Understand how ICT can be used to meet business needs
- Know how to work with information and data to meet specified business needs
- Know how ICT can be used to support business working practices
- Understand how legal, ethical, safety and security issues affect how computers should be used

Unit R002: Using ICT to create business solutions

- Be able to use techniques to search for, store and share information
- Be able to select and use software to handle data
- Be able to select and use software to communicate information for a business purpose
- Be able to use software tools to format information

Unit R004: Handling data using databases

- Be able to modify databases to meet user requirements
- Be able to produce outputs from databases to meet user requirements
- Be able to create user interfaces for databases to meet user requirements
- Be able to analyse a databases suitability for a business purpose

Unit R005: Creating an interactive product using multimedia components

- Be able to design interactive products
- Be able to create interactive products containing multimedia components
- Be able to carry out usability testing

What Skills Will I Develop?

The Cambridge Nationals in ICT will equip learners with sound ICT skills for everyday use and provide opportunities to develop in context those desirable, transferable skills such as planning, research and analysis, working with others or communicating technical concepts effectively. They will also challenge all learners, including high attaining learners, by introducing them to demanding material and skills; encouraging independence and creativity; providing tasks that engage with the most taxing aspects of the National Curriculum (including data handling, modelling and programming).

ICT skills are essential for success in employment and higher education, and are among the fundamental transferable skills required by employers. You will develop essential skills in all of the main Microsoft office applications used in the workplace.

Why Study ICT?

The OCR Cambridge Nationals are vocationally related qualifications that take an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment.

ICT skills are essential for success in employment and higher education, and are among the fundamental transferable skills required by employers. Cambridge Nationals deliver these skills across the whole range of learning styles and abilities, effectively engaging and inspiring all students to achieve great things.

Assessment

R001: Understanding Computer Systems (25%) 1 Hour Written Exam

R002: Using ICT to Create Business Solutions (25%) Centre Assessed Task

R004: Handling Data Using Databases (25%) Centre Assessed Task

R005: Creating an Interactive Product Using Multimedia Components (25%) Centre Assessed Task.

Homework

As 75% of the course is controlled assessment, no work for this can be done at home. There will be preparation work and revision however, for the external examination unit (R001).

What Could This Course Take Me?

Learners can progress from OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National Award in ICT to other vocational qualifications in IT User Skills, IT Professional and IT Practitioner suite of qualifications (Levels 1-4) or the Creative iMedia suite of qualifications (Levels 1-3).

This can lead to careers as an ICT technician, Systems Administrator, Systems Analyst (ICT), Technical Sales Representative and many more as most jobs in this technology driven era use ICT in one format or another.

ENTRY PATHWAYS IN HUMANITIES

Qualification	Entry Level Qualification
Exam Board	WJEC
Subject Contact	Mrs H Rashud HRashud@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

This course will run over three years and will cover a range of Humanities topics. The course allows students to study topics which they are interested in from historical units, geographical themes or even ways to help the local community.

What Will I Study?

- Change over time
- People and Protest
- British Society in the past/Non-British society in the past
- History in the media
- Fragile environments
- Community action

What Skills Will I Develop?

You will develop a range of transferable written skills. You will study case studies and historical sources developing your inference skills. There will be opportunities for you to be creative such as building castles and making model volcanoes.

Why Study Humanities?

For those of you who don't perform well in exams then this is the course for you. This course is based solely on a series of units over three years that will be marked internally and moderated externally. There are no formal assessments but a series of projects that need to be completed each year.

Assessment

There is **no** formal assessment. There are two levels which pupils can be entered, Entry level 2 or 3. Students who have shown the ability to identify will be entered at Entry 2, those who can describe will be entered at Entry 3.

At each Entry Level students will complete units that are worth between 2 – 4 credits.

These credit values then add together to make an:

- Award (8 – 12 credits)
- Certificate (13 – 36 credits)
- Diploma (37 + credits)

By the end of Year 11 you will have collected 37+ credits which will enable you to achieve the highest award of a **Diploma** in Humanities.

Homework

Homework will be set on a weekly basis and can take many forms such as research or more creative based tasks.

What Could This Course Take Me?

This course allows you develop many transferable skills such as descriptive writing, showing off your more creative talents and team work.

A Diploma in Humanities will be a qualification that you can use in the future, whether applying for a college place or job.

LEARNING FOR LIFE - GCSE CITIZENSHIP

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Mrs W Zaeem WZaeem@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

Learning for Life is a valuable qualification as it provides an opportunity for students to reflect on world issues and to consider their place in society. The Learning for Life curriculum gives students the opportunity to express opinions about the world in which they live and to develop skills and knowledge to enable them to engage with 21st Century modern living as an active, responsible global citizen.

What Will I Study?

- Citizenship skills, processes and methods
- Life in Modern Britain
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Politics & Participation
- Taking Citizenship Action

What Skills Will I Develop?

Students of GCSE Citizenship will be encouraged to develop a wide range of 'citizenship' skills, such as decision making, evaluation, critical enquiry and collaborative working; these are skills which will be useful to them in many other areas of study, as well as in their daily life and their future employment. The controlled assessment element prompts them to evaluate their own performance and analyse which skills they have acquired in the course of their work.

Students will also gain knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop the ability to create sustained, well balanced arguments. Communication skills are increasingly sought after by employers. Citizenship specification will enhance students writing and speaking styles.

They will also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate argument, weigh evidence and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence, all of which are essential skills valued by higher education and employers.

Why Study Citizenship?

Citizenship puts students in touch with the world around them giving them the ability to think more widely than their own immediate circumstances. A themed approach leads them to consider issues as diverse as how individuals can bring about change in their local community and the UK's relationship with international organisations.

During their studies students are encouraged to focus on a number of citizenship concepts such as stereotyping, sustainable development and community cohesion and through these, to develop citizenship skills such as tolerance. Students of GCSE Citizenship will be encouraged to develop a wide range of 'citizenship' skills, such as decision making, evaluation, critical enquiry and collaborative working and negotiation.

Assessment

- Paper 1: Active Citizenship and Politics and Participation (50%) 1 Hour 45 Minutes Written Paper
- Paper 2: Life in Modern Britain and Rights and Responsibilities (50%) 1 Hour 45 Minutes Written Paper

Homework

3 In depth project pieces of work are set during each module to develop student's subject knowledge and exam skills.

What Could This Course Take Me?

This GCSE work can lead to pathways to A level - Government & Politics, History, Geography, English, Law, sociology and psychology.

The subjects studied have strong links to a wide range of careers including careers in human resources, public services, teaching, the criminal justice system and politics.

LEARNING FOR LIFE - GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Qualification	0.5 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	Pearson Edexcel (B)
Subject Contact	Miss C Cooper CCooper@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

Learning for Life (Religious Studies), is a valuable qualification as it provides an opportunity for students to reflect on the role of religion in the world and how it affects world issues and to consider its place in society and within their life. The Learning for Life curriculum gives students the opportunity to ask questions and express opinions about the world in which they live and to develop skills and knowledge to enable them to engage with modern living as an active, responsible citizen.

What Will I Study?

Students will study a range of topics including:

- Religious Beliefs
- Marriage and the Family
- Peace and Conflict

What Skills Will I Develop?

Studying Religious Studies within the Learning for Life Curriculum enables pupils to develop a range of skills including; Description, Explanation, Analysis and Evaluation. Pupil will also develop their written communication skills with extended writing pieces, and their verbal communication skills, with an emphasis on pupils being able to formulate and present a wide range of well informed and reasoned arguments on a variety of topics. These are all valuable and transferable skills which will be beneficial to the pupils now and in the future.

Why Study Religious Studies?

Religious Studies encourages the pupils to look beyond the traditional image of religion and the headlines about world events and religions role in them and instead develop and understanding and appreciation of religious thought and how it contributes to individuals, communities and societies for example. Two world religions are studied, to develop the pupil's knowledge and understanding of their core beliefs and how these beliefs are applied to a variety of issues, which impact upon society and the pupil's individual lives. From their studies pupils will be able understand and articulate their own and others' beliefs', values and commitments.

Assessment

They should follow this format:

Unit 1 – Religion and Ethics (50%) 50 Minutes Written Paper

Unit 2 – Religion, Peace and Conflict (50%) 50 Minutes Written Paper

Homework

A range of homework tasks will be set through the study of the course, including research and investigating tasks and exam question challenges. Homework is set to enhance and affirm the pupil's knowledge and understanding of the course content and practise and develop the skills needed to ensure success at GCSE.

Where Could This Course Take Me?

The study of religious studies offers pupils a variety of routes for further education and future careers such as: A-Levels in Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics, Sociology, Law, Politics, History and Psychology. Students could also seek careers in human resources, public services, politics, teaching, the criminal justice system and many more.

Option Subjects

Art & Design
Business Studies
Dance
Design Technology
Digital Art
Drama
Film Studies
Geography
History
Modern Foreign Languages (German / Spanish)
Music
Music Technology
Triple Award Science (Biology / Chemistry / Physics) (E Band Only)
BTEC Sport
Textiles



GCSE ART AND DESIGN

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Miss A Jenkins AJenkins@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

This three year course is designed to accommodate the needs and interests of individual pupils, their personal development and the ability to apply technical and practical skills which are highlighted throughout the course. Pupils have the opportunity to specialise in Painting and Drawing, Printing, Fashion and Textiles or Three Dimensional Studies. A course sketchbook must be kept and a formal assessment programme is employed with regular grading and marking. Students experience individual tutorials and portfolio presentations to self- evaluate their performance in the subject.

What Will I Study?

Practical work will range from drawing and painting, three dimensional work, to printed and constructed textiles. Pupils will experience a broad range of differing materials and techniques and work within a design-based course. The history and appreciation of Art and Design is explored through the use of the extensive subject specialist library within the department and both Gallery visits and artist in residence workshops.

What Skills Will I Develop?

Subjective and objective skills in drawing and painting, fabric screen printing, research, development and analysis skills

Why Study Art & Design?

Art and Design is a very popular subject and our students enjoy success with pass rates consistently in the 90% range. All work is practical so there is no written examination. Projects are delivered to suit all levels of ability.

Assessment

Unit 1 Work is assessed in the form of coursework (60%). Pupils will be expected to complete two to three extended units of work based on a contemporary/traditional Artist craft worker or designer. In Year 11, pupils will complete an individual unit of work, which is tailored towards the pupil's strengths and interests.

Unit 2. An externally set practical paper (40%) to be completed over a ten hour period under examination conditions.

Homework

Homework will be given regularly throughout the course. This will include research, preparation work and sketchbook work, completing tasks or deadlines.

What Could This Course Take Me?

Pupils will be expected to complete two to three extended units of work based on a contemporary/traditional Artist craft worker or designer. In Year 11, pupils will complete an individual unit of work, which is tailored towards the pupil's strengths and interests.

GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Helen Lyons HLyons@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

Students will consider the practical application of business concepts. The units provide opportunities to explore theories and concepts in the most relevant way, through the context of events in the business and economic world. In addition it gives students an appreciation of the impact of technology and global events on the activities of a business. The knowledge and skills will provide students with a firm foundation towards gaining employment in a wide area of fields, setting up their own business or continuing on to higher education.

What Will I Study?

- Unit 1: Influences of Operations and Human Resource Management on business activity - Business in the real world; Influences on business; Business Operations; Human Resources. Individual components include: Enterprise; Ownership; Aims and Objectives; Stakeholders; Location; Planning; Expansion; Technology; Ethics and the Environment; the Economy; Globalisation; Legislation; Competition; Production; Quality; Customer Services; Organisation Structures; Recruitment; Motivation and Training.
- Unit 2: Influences of Marketing and Finance on business activity - Business in the real world; Influences on business; Marketing; Finance. Individual components include: Segmentation; Market Research; Price, Product, Place and Promotion; Sources of finance; Cash Flow; Financial Calculations; Financial Performance.

What Skills Will I Develop?

The knowledge and skills are of both a practical and theoretical nature which gives pupils the background areas for work in an everyday business environment. From practical skills set, it involves the selection and use of appropriate software for business during the delivery of the theoretical content namely; Word Processing; Spreadsheets; Databases; Graphics; Presentation; Web Authoring; Desk Top Publishing. From a theory skills set, it allows pupils to develop and awareness and appreciation with regards to Starting a Business, Marketing, Finance, People in Business and Operations Management to understand how a business is run and the impact of technology and global events on a business's activities. This allows pupils to develop written and communication, problem solving, project management, team working and organisational skills needed in the workplace.

Why Study Business Studies?

This is a two year course appealing to students who enjoy combining theoretical understanding and practical application of business incorporating the use and impact of ICT. It gives students an awareness and insight into the workings of a business and expectations on employees, in preparation for their future employment experience. Overall this knowledge base provides pupils with a head start on other employees as they will understand why a business reacts in the way it does allowing them to positively contribute in the workplace.

Assessment

- Paper 1: Influences of Operations and Human Resource Management on Business Activity (50%) 1 Hour 45 Minutes Written Paper
- Paper 2: Influences of Marketing and Finance Management on Business Activity (50%) 1 Hour 45 Minutes Written Paper

Homework

An AQA CGP Business Studies Workbook (bound and printed) is purchased for each pupil that follows the exam specification and delivery, building and recapping on each area in the syllabus covered throughout the lessons. These workbooks follow the AQA course and are pre-approved by the exam board. Pupils complete all homework in the workbooks which are supported by a CGP Revision Guide that can be used alongside the workbook and for revision purposes for the final examinations.

Where Could This Course Take Me?

Students wishing to continue their studies can progress to study A Levels in Business Studies, Economics or Accounting. Alternatively, students could follow a vocational pathway with subjects such as Level 3 BTECs in Business, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Marketing or Travel and Tourism. Both routes will enable further progression into Higher Education.

Business is unique in that it supports and complements a wide variety of other GCSE and A level courses and careers. It gives you the background to how a business works and provides you with the skills to give you an advantage when trying to get a job or promotion. It allows you to gain skills that are transferable between jobs.

Here are just some of the careers it supports:

Accounting, Finance, Banking, Commercial, Bid Management, Project Management, Operations Management, Logistics and Shipping, Marketing, Sales, Advertising, Product Design, Business Management, Planning, Business Administration, Personnel, Training, Customer Services and Purchasing.

GCSE DANCE

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Miss L Salisbury LSalisbury@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

This course introduces develops and extends the three fundamental areas of Performance, Choreography and Appreciation. Students embarking on this qualification will improve their technical performance skills, learn how to create and craft both solo and group material, and appreciate the work of other professionals alongside that of themselves and peers.

What Will I Study?

- Dance performance – within this are areas such as – Physical Skills, Technical Skills, Expressive Skills, Rehearsal Skills.
- Choreography – within this are areas such as – Choreographic Devices, Structuring a Dance, Responding to a dance Idea.
- Dance Appreciation – within this are areas such as – Safety, Understanding Contemporary Dance, The Foundations of Dance Study, Analysis of Professional Repertoire, The Constituent Features of Dance.

What Skills Will I Develop?

You can expect to develop the physical, technical, mental and expressive skills required to become a successful performer. Alongside this you will also develop choreographic skills and an understanding of how to apply choreographic forms and devices, developing creative use of imagination and synthesis of ideas in relation to a stimulus. Additionally you will develop skills in appreciation through critical analysis, interpretation and evaluation of professional dance works.

The course relies heavily on excellent skills in teamwork, independent learning, and resilience. It really builds students confidence and presentation skills as well as theoretical understanding. Creativity is essential and is nurtured over the duration of the course.

Why Study Dance?

Dance study provides an alternative to classroom based learning. Students learn in physical and active ways in a practical environment. Dance challenges students to push themselves further in terms of performing dances, creating dances, and understanding what dance is. Dance provides opportunity for discovery and expression, for experimentation and creativity.

Assessment

Component 1: Performance and Choreography (60%)

This comprises of the following:

- A one minute solo performance piece set by the examination board – 20% of total grade
- A three minute group performance piece (duet or trio) choreographed by teacher and student – 20% of total grade
- A three minute group choreography for two to five dancers choreographed entirely by the student themselves in response to a set of questions set by the examination board – 20% of total grade.

Component 2: Dance Appreciation (40%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Exam

Homework

Homework can be practical, theoretical or research based. Homework is set regularly throughout the course.

What Could This Course Take Me?

Students may go on to study A-Level dance, BTEC Performing Arts / Dance, or use the grade to continue onto any other further study platform. Students may continue on to study dance or performing arts at Degree Level. Career routes may vary widely and can range from arts administrator to freelance teacher, to performer or choreographer.

GCSE DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Mr B Bewes BBewes@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

This course utilises a multi-material approach to the design and manufacture of new functional products. Pupils utilise a range of materials, practical skills and graphic processes to design, model and prototype their products. The main material groups used are wood, metal and plastic, however, other materials are used as the final design dictates – e.g. smart materials and electronics.

What Will I Study?

Pupils are made aware of the processes and techniques used in manufacturing products, along with commercial/industrial application of materials, common manufacturing methods, packaging and issues affecting the environment e.g. recycling. Pupils are also encouraged to consider the 'whole product' i.e. the product, any associated packaging and marketing materials required along with the afterlife of products. Product analysis, disassembly and understanding of designers and design movement are covered to give pupils a wider understanding of Design Technology in the 'real' world.

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Presentation skills;
- Communication skills;
- The ability to work to deadlines;
- Commercial and entrepreneurial skills;
- Problem-solving skills;
- The ability to use your initiative and work independently;
- Team working skills;
- General and specialist IT skills, such as computer-aided design (CAD).

Why Study Design Technology?

Do you love solving problems and being creative? Or perhaps you just keep coming up with great ideas but don't know what to do with them? If that's the case, studying Design and Technology could be for you, and it can open you up to a lot of career choices like fashion design, Product designer, Architect, Civil Engineer and Software engineer.

Assessment

- Component 1 (50%) 2 Hours Written Paper
- Component 2 (50%) 30-35 Hours Non-Exam Assessment. The design and make part is made up of a Design folder, modelling and a final product.

Homework

Homework is used throughout the course, to extend pupils knowledge of the subject. All pupils will have exam themed homework booklets to work through periodically through the course to improve subject knowledge.

Where Could This Course Take Me?

There are plenty.... Design and technology can set you up for a career in a wide variety of industries such as fashion, engineering, architecture. Information technology, careers in hospitality and even education. Popular careers for people with design and technology qualifications included fashion, product designer, architect, software engineer, civil engineer, carpenter and chef.

GCSE DIGITAL ART

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Mr M Billington MBillington@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

This course is designed to specifically meet the needs and interests of individual in a media driven society. Personal development and the ability to apply technical and practical skills by all students are highlighted throughout the course. Students complete sketchbook work as well as developing individual outcomes to their self-initiated briefs

What Will I Study?

Pupils will develop skills in all areas of Digital arts such as

- Photo manipulation
- vector art
- 2d animation
- 3d modelling and CGI animation
- Illustration
- Graphic Design
- Stop motion photography

Pupils will specialize in their preferred areas as projects progress.

What Skills Will I Develop?

The course is designed to teach students as many industry standard programs as possible and empower the students to experiment within these to find their own personal areas of specialism. All projects are planned to enable as much student individualism as possible while guiding the students on areas that will give them the highest possible attainment.

Why Study Digital Art?

Digital Art has emerged at the heart of many professions and in every corner of visual culture including animation, motion graphics, film, illustration, television and art. Because this course is both creative and technical, students will be qualified to pursue careers paths any area of these industries.

Assessment

At the start of the course all pupils will be provided with an induction, which will outline the course and how it is assessed, providing deadlines and helpful hints of how to complete the course successfully. The pupils' work is assessed in the form of 3 units each with specific elements of work which must be achieved to pass the course. 1 of these units will be an externally set exam where students will produce support work in a set time period running up to the exam then undertake a 10 hour controlled exam producing a final piece of work. All

Students work is assessed with the final mark formulated from coursework (60%), and the externally set paper (40%).

Homework

Students are expected to continue to develop their skills and knowledge and will be asked to either use the school's facilities to complete homework tasks or be given interrelated homework tasks that can be completed at home. Usually students will receive homework projects that span several weeks to allow all students the opportunity to develop work to the highest possible standard.

What Could This Course Take Me?

The creative industries are growing faster than any other area of the UK economy. Career paths include: graphic design, illustration, concept artist, games design, photography, animation, special effects design (CGI), media production specialist, web development.

GCSE DRAMA

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	WJEC/Eduqas
Subject Contact	Mrs Mallon SMallon@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Drama offers a broad and coherent course of study which enables learners to:

- Apply knowledge and understanding when making, performing and responding to drama
- Explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created
- Develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performances
- Work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas
- Develop as creative, effective, independent and reflective learners able to make informed choices in process and performance
- Contribute as an individual to a theatrical performance
- Reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others
- Develop an awareness and understanding of the roles and processes undertaken in contemporary professional theatre practice
- Adopt safe working practices.

What Will I Study?

- Devising Theatre
- Performing from a Text
- Interpreting Theatre

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Knowledge and understanding of style, genre and social context
- Performance techniques – interpretation, improvisation, voice, physicality, stage relationships with others
- Design skills – interpretation, visual and design impacts and the use of scenic devices
- Technical abilities – lighting, sound, technology and appropriate equipment
- Practical skills - from making masks and puppets to make-up
- Collaboration and communication skills
- Enquiring and reflective minds
- Independent thinking and working.

Why Study Drama?

- Exciting texts to study.
- Getting the chance to watch live theatre to prepare for the written paper.
- The choice available in the practical work from acting to puppet making, set design to make-up.
- Being assessed for contribution and ability during the preparation period of their final piece, as well as the design or performance itself.
- The opportunity to work collaboratively.
- The opportunity to communicate creatively.
- Its potential for a vocational career path.

Assessment

Component 1: Devising Theatre (40%) Non-Exam Assessment

Component 2: Performing from a Text (20%) Non-Exam Assessment

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre (40%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Examination

Homework

Students will be expected to complete a logbook of their work throughout the course.

What Could This Course Take Me?

Throughout the GCSE Drama programme, students are encouraged to collaborate with others, engaging in stimulating and creative activities with confidence. These fundamental cooperative, collaborative and social skills are useful across all kinds of disciplines, careers and life experiences in general.

GCSE Drama could lead on to further study in Drama, Theatre Studies, Performing Arts and Expressive Arts at A-level and above, or other related subjects such as English, Music, Dance, Art and Design.

Career opportunities for students who study Drama at a higher level include: the media, theatre, television, radio, the film industry, arts administration, drama therapy, education.

GCSE FILM STUDIES

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	WJEC/Eduqas
Subject Contact	Miss S E Ashurst SAshurst@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

The WJEC Eduqas specification in GCSE Film Studies is designed to draw on your enthusiasm for film and introduce you to a wide variety of cinematic experiences through films which have been important in the development of film and film technology. This course is also designed to build upon your own experience of film – as consumers and creators.

What Will I Study?

It involves the study of:

- The 'language' of film - how films are constructed – through cinematography (camerawork and lighting), mise-en-scène (how sets, locations, props and costume are used in film), editing and sound
- how films are organised into structures – genre (the different kinds of film) and narrative (how films tell their stories)
- how films can be used – artistically (the aesthetic qualities of film) and as a way of communicating ideas and issues (representation)
- how you can make sense of film through exploring a film's relevant contexts (social, cultural, historical, political and institutional), through an awareness of key aspects of the history of film and through specialist writing on film
- the most significant developments in the history of film and film technology such as the rise of Hollywood and the development of sound, the introduction of colour film, widescreen technology & 3D and the role of CGI in film.

What Skills Will I Develop?

- The ability to analyse film and film sequences by deconstructing cinematography, editing & sound.
- An understanding of narrative & genre
- How to analyse and evaluate your own work in relation to other professionally produced work.
- How to apply knowledge and understanding of film to the production of a film or screenplay.

Why Study Film?

Film allows you to share and develop your enthusiasm for films and you get to show off your excitement for film and your 'film geek' credentials!

It is widely acknowledged as the major art form of the last hundred years, and film is so important to many people's cultural experience, so this makes it an important medium to study – it has after all had such a significant influence on the way people think and feel.

Assessment

Component 1: Key Developments in US Film (35%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Examination

Component 2: Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style (35%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Examination

Component 3: Production (30%) Non-Exam Assessment

Homework

You will be given homework which relates to the topics you are studying. Some homework will be booklets which are to be completed over the course of a longer period of time, for instance half a term; others may be research or preparation for class work.

What Could This Course Take Me?

You will have the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills needed to progress either to the more demanding AS/A Level in Film Studies or other equivalent level qualifications, including applied qualifications or to enter employment.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Mr J Hartley JHartley@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

Geography is a dynamic subject and the course focus is on changes in geographical features and landforms and changes in urban and economic sectors.

The course aims to:

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of a range of places and environments.
- To provide the knowledge and the skills for further study at A Level and beyond.
- To bring the study of Geography up to date and focus on the changing nature of Geography for the 21st Century.
- To give our students the chance to participate in individual research and to make use of modern information technologies such as GIS.

What Will I Study?

Topics that will be studied on the course will include:

- Challenge of Natural Hazards
- The Living World
- Physical Landscapes in the UK
- Urban Issues and Challenges
- The Changing Economic World
- The Challenge of Resource Management

What Skills Will I Develop?

- 1) Students develop a sense of place and an appreciation of the attitudes and values of decision makers in the world in which we live. Awareness of the interaction of people and their environments is a key area of study. Geography enables students to develop an understanding of the world and the people who live in it.
- 2) Students acquire and apply appropriate skills and techniques including map work, fieldwork, literacy and numeracy, graphical skills, enquiry skills and the use of ICT skills.
- 3) Knowledge of places and themes are gained through a range of local, regional, national, international and global scales.
Investigative and communication skills are developed through Geographical Enquiry.

Why Study Geography?

Just three simple quotes to answer this question.....

- *"Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future" - Michael Palin,*
- *"Geography prepares for the world of work - geographers, with their skills of analysis are highly employable!"*
- *"Without Geography - You are **Knowhere!**"*

Assessment

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment (35%) 1 Hour 30 Minutes Written Examination

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (35%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Examination

Paper 3: Geographical Applications (30%) 1 Hour Written Examination

Homework

The exam syllabus relies on students undertaking private study at home which may be in the form of research, note making, coursework preparation or answering past examination questions.

Where Could This Course Take Me?

Pupils may follow courses at Advanced Level in Geography or move to NVQ courses such as Leisure and Tourism. At the higher level of education Universities offer a wide variety of degree courses in Geography as an arts, science or social science subject. There are many linked subjects as varied as Oceanography and Town Planning. Many Universities recognise Geography as a Science!

Geography offers a background to a wide range of careers including travel and tourism, the leisure industry, town planning, nature conservancy, transport and communications to name but a few.

GCSE HISTORY

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	Pearson Edexcel
Subject Contact	Mrs S Dunne SDunne@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

The History GCSE covers many different periods of History and the course is put together in such a way that students will get the opportunity to gain knowledge of some significant British and non-British events in History as well as developing a sense of continuity and change in Crime and Punishment in Britain from Medieval times until the present day.

What Will I Study?

- Thematic Study – *Crime & Punishment c.1000 A.D. to present*
- Historic Environment - *Whitechapel c.1870-c.1900*
- Period Study – *The American West c.1835-c.1895*
- British Depth Study – *Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c.1060-88*
- Modern Depth Study – *Weimar & Nazi Germany 1918-39*

What Skills Will I Develop?

During this course students will be developing analysis and evaluation skills. They will learn to extend their historical essay writing skills and gain confidence in making substantiated judgements.

Why Study History?

History is so important in our modern world...to learn about major world events like the rise of Nazi Germany can help us to make sense of events which are happening today. Come and learn about the time England was ruled by French king and how that has impacted on Britain now and then. Find out about how law enforcement has evolved into the system we have today in the 21st century. Hone your analysis skills and prepare to amaze yourself with the amount of knowledge you can acquire on this magical mystery ride through time!

Assessment

Paper 1: Thematic Study and Historic Environment (30%) 1 Hour 15 Minute Written Examination

Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study (40%) 1 Hour 45 Minute Written Examination

Paper 3: Modern Depth Study (30%) 1 Hour 20 Minutes Written Examination

Homework

Homework is set weekly and can take many forms. It might be researching key individuals, watching a documentary and making notes, preparing for practise questions or planning an activity to share with your classmates! Typically homework will take approximately 45 minutes in year 9 increasing as the course develops into year 10 and 11.

Where Could This Course Take Me?

History can teach students many transferable skills: evaluation and analysis are key components of numerous careers. A GCSE in History shows FE colleges and future employers that you are able to consider evidence and interpretations and draw valid conclusions based upon these.

Typical careers include the police, law and teaching but history underpins everything...and most career paths are connected to history in some way.

In fact, history is very practical, because it involves:

- **Learning about people** - how they interact, the motives and emotions that can tear people apart into rival factions or help them to work together for a common cause (useful knowledge for team-building at work!)
- **Learning about countries, societies and cultures** - so many of today's conflicts and alliances have their roots in the past; how can you negotiate with, trade successfully with, or report on a country if you know nothing of its history?
- **Learning to locate and sift facts** - to identify truth and recognise myth, propaganda and downright lies (useful in every aspect of life!)
- **Presenting what you've learned in a way that makes sense to others** - whether in graphs, essays or illustrated reports - **and** having the confidence to defend your findings.

All these skills are valuable in a whole range of jobs. So instead of only looking at 'careers in history' you could also look at careers where it will help a lot if you've studied history.

GCSE GERMAN

GCSE SPANISH

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Miss E Riley ERiley@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

The specification covers three distinct themes. These themes apply to all four question papers. Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where German/Spanish is spoken.

What Will I Study?

Theme 1: Identity and Culture:

- Topic 1: Me, My Family and Friends
- Topic 2: Technology in Everyday Life
- Topic 3: Free-time Activities
- Topic 4: Customs and Festivals

Theme 2: Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest:

- Topic 1: Home, Town, Neighbourhood and Region
- Topic 2: Social Issues
- Topic 3: Global Issues
- Topic 4: Travel and Tourism

Theme 3: Current and Future Study and Employment:

- Topic 1: My Studies
- Topic 2: Life at School/College
- Topic 3: Education Post-16
- Topic 4: Jobs, Career Choices and Ambitions

What Skills Will I Develop?

This AQA course seeks to develop pupil's knowledge, skills and understanding in all four skill areas: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, as well as their cultural awareness of the communities where the language is spoken.

Why Study a Modern Foreign Language?

Travel - Even a little knowledge of the language can make a difference in attitude when you meet people from other countries. Speaking another language helps to break down barriers.

Work and Business - It can help you give an added advantage in your later career if you work for an international firm or a company with international customers or contacts.

Music, Film, Arts and Culture - If you like literature, films or music from other countries, learning the language will help your appreciation and understanding.

For a Challenge - You will enjoy a sense of satisfaction from being able to converse with your peers on different topics in the target language.

Assessment

GCSE German/Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

Paper 1: Listening

What's assessed

Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

(Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.)

Questions

Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

- Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
- Section B – questions in Spanish, to be answered in Spanish or non-verbally

Paper 2: Speaking

What's assessed

Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes

How it's assessed

- Non-exam assessment
- 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

Questions

Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher Tier, but with different stimulus questions for the Photo card and different stimulus materials for the Role-play. The timings are different too:

- Role-play – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 2 minutes at Higher Tier)
- Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 3 minutes at Higher Tier)
- General conversation – 30 marks (3–5 minutes at Foundation Tier; 5–7 minutes at Higher Tier)

Paper 3: Reading

What's assessed

Understanding and responding to different types of written language

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

Questions

Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

- Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
- Section B – questions in Spanish, to be answered in Spanish or non-verbally
- Section C – translation from Spanish into English (a minimum of 35 words at Foundation Tier and 50 words at Higher Tier)

Paper 4: Writing
<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes</p>
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier) • 50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier • 25% of GCSE
<p>Questions</p> <p>Foundation Tier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo) – 8 marks • Question 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total) – 16 marks • Question 3 – translation from English into Spanish (minimum 35 words) – 10 marks • Question 4 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks <p>Higher Tier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks • Question 2 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 32 marks • Question 3 – translation from English into Spanish (minimum 50 words) – 12 marks

Homework

Homework is a combination of formal vocabulary learning, completion of written translation, 150 word responses and reading activities. Homework will be set weekly and pupils will be expected to prepare effectively at home for EPS Sessions.

Where Could This Course Take Me?

After completing a GCSE in German or Spanish, students can progress on to A-Levels in their chosen language. Studying a language can also open up a number of opportunities to pupils. Jobs in Interpreting, Business, Journalism and Teaching as well as working overseas in a variety of different settings are all becoming increasingly more accessible to those who have studied another language.

GCSE MUSIC

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Mrs A Paton-Jones AJones@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

Music is an exciting practically based course that will enable you to develop your all-round skills as a versatile musician. You will enjoy and encounter a wide variety of musical styles and traditions on this course. You will enjoy this course if you are interested in song writing, music for film and computers in music. It is advisable that you prepare yourself for this course by committing to regular practise on at least one chosen instrument (or voice), preferably taking up weekly tuition on that instrument.

What Will I Study?

The course is divided into 3 key areas of study:

Performing

You will develop your skills as a performer throughout the course. You are expected to prepare both solo and ensemble pieces through performance sessions within practical lessons

Listening

As part of the course, you will learn about different styles of music and be able to discuss key features of the music. Three areas of music are studied and you will be expected to discuss various elements of music through these areas: World Music, The Western Tonal Tradition, and Popular Music.

Composing

Through the course, you will produce 2 compositions that are related to the areas of study completed in your listening work. Compositions range from song-writing, writing for you own instrument, writing for a group and using the latest ICT equipment available in the music department.

What Skills Will I Develop?

Throughout your study of this course you will develop your musicianship skills within the 3 key areas. In performance you will develop specialist skills on your instrument with chance to perform in class and as part of an ensemble. In composition you will develop your use of Mac computers to create your own original compositions using MIDI keyboard and your own instrument. In Listening you will develop your ears to be able to recognise and write about a wide range of music that you hear. Throughout the course you will develop your music theory skills through application in the 3 key areas.

Why Study Music?

Music is all around us. It influences our moods and emotions and enhances our lives every day. GCSE gives you the opportunity to develop all of your skills as a musician. It allows you to learn with like-minded people who love to perform and make their own music.

Assessment

Component 1: Listening (40%) 1 Hour Written Examination

Component 2: Performing (30%) Non-Exam Component

Component 3: Composition (30%) Non-Exam Component

Homework/Extra-Curricular Commitments

- Commitment to the music department by playing your chosen instrument (including voice) by regular practice and regular lessons with a specialist tutor who plays your instrument. Instrumental tutors available includes: vocals groups includes 'Harmonix', Chamber choir, Boys choir, Guitar group, String group, African group, Samba band and school ensemble.
- That you join one of the music groups which you might already be a member of. The groups are great fun and all ensembles perform in concerts both inside of school
- Revise key concepts and features regularly to help prepare yourself for the listening exam

What Could This Course Take Me?

Music GCSE will give you an excellent platform for further study of Music and Music technology. By taking Music you will have the option to go onto college to study courses such as A Level Music, Music Technology and BTEC level 3 Music. Even if you don't plan to take Music any further the learning of an instrument has many transferable skills and is seen as an excellent enrichment to your CV.

LEVEL 2 VCERT IN MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Qualification	Level 2 VCERT (1.0 GCSE Equivalent)
Exam Board	NCFE
Subject Contact	Mrs A Paton-Jones AJones@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

Music Technology enables learners to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of the music technology industry. It's suitable for learners who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands-on experiences. The qualification will allow learners to gain practical skills in creating music using technology.

This qualification is aimed at learners with an interest in music production and recording and is designed to sit alongside GCSEs in the Key Stage 4 curriculum. It's a vocational qualification equivalent to GCSE at grades A*-C.

The qualification provides an introduction to the music technology industry and enables learners to acquire, develop and apply the skills and knowledge required for further academic and/or vocational study.

What Will I Study?

During the Music Technology course you will use the iMacs and Logic Pro X to create your own pieces of music and to document the processes which enables you to do this.

What Skills Will I Develop?

Throughout your study of this course you will develop your Music technology editing and arranging skills. Learners will develop skills in operating a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) creatively using audio, MIDI, hardware and editing tools. Learners will create musical projects in response to briefs, reflecting industry skills. They will plan and undertake a recording session for a given scenario and will explore sound creation and apply their knowledge to a given brief. Learners will also develop skills to analyse stylistic elements of music and will engage in a review of technical and creative processes.

Why Study Music Technology?

Music Technology is increasingly becoming an important part of the music industry. By studying NCFE Music technology you can develop both musical and technological skills that can be applied to real life scenarios. It allows you to learn with like-minded people who love to create, record and manipulate music and sound.

Assessment

The Level 2 VCERT in Music Technology consists of 4 units:

- Unit 1: Using a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) (25%)
- Unit 2: Creating Music (25%)
- Unit 3: Studio Recording (25%)
- Unit 4: Sound Creation (25%)

Learners will be assessed continually through practical project work, coursework, written exam, written portfolios and through giving presentations.

Homework/Extra-Curricular Commitments

As part of your course is practical work based on the iMacs you will be expected to regularly attend EPS sessions to work on and complete your projects outside of class time. In addition to this you may on occasion receive homework on the topic of keywords related to music technology.

What Could This Course Take Me?

Students could progress onto a Level 3 qualification such as the BTEC Level 3 Diploma Music Technology or Creative Media Production. Level 3 courses provide a transferrable skills base for preparation for university or working within the creative industries.

TRIPLE AWARD SCIENCE - GCSE BIOLOGY

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Mrs D Fox DFox@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

This course is designed to recognise the impact of Biology in everyday life. It will allow learners to make informed decisions about issues that involve Biology, and help them to understand the information that they will be supplied with in more depth compared to Dual Award Science. Learners in E band will have the option to study GCSE Biology as part of the Triple Science suite. Overall, students will achieve 3 GCSEs in Science subjects.

What Will I Study?

- Cell Biology
- Organisation
- Infection and Response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and Response
- Inheritance, Variation and Evolution
- Ecology

What Skills Will I Develop?

This course focuses around working scientifically – being able to investigate scientific concepts and explain them through good knowledge and understanding. This qualification uses contemporary, relevant contexts of interest to candidates, which can be approached through a range of teaching and learning activities.

Why Study Biology?

Biology, as a field of general science, studies the intricate details of life helping humans understand how to care for themselves, animals and plants in the proper manner. Biology enables individuals understand the interaction between humanity and the world. It also develops interests in the lives of living organisms in an effort to preserve them.

Assessment

Paper 1 Biology (50%) 1 hour 45 minutes written exam

Paper 2 Biology (50%) 1 hour 45 minutes written exam

All students complete a series of practical investigations which are examined as part of the written exams.

Homework

Students are set 45 minutes of homework every week consisting of carrying out research tasks and completing past paper questions.

Where Could This Course Take Me?

The skills gained in the GCSE Triple Science suite are well valued by both employers and colleges. For those wanting to pursue a career in a scientific field, GCSE Triple Science is favoured as it demonstrates the learners have gained more in depth knowledge of scientific concepts. Other vocations however, regard the investigative, problem solving and communication skills, which are developed as part of this course, invaluable in their specialisms.

TRIPLE AWARD SCIENCE - GCSE CHEMISTRY

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Mrs D Fox DFox@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

This course is designed to recognise the impact of Chemistry in everyday life. It will allow learners to make informed decisions about issues that involve Chemistry, and help them to understand the information that they will be supplied with in more depth compared to Dual Award Science. Learners in E band will have the option to study GCSE Chemistry as part of the Triple Science suite. Overall, students will achieve 3 GCSEs in Science subjects.

What Will I Study?

- Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table
- Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
- Quantitative Chemistry
- Chemical Changes
- Energy Changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic Chemistry
- Chemical Analysis
- Chemistry of the Atmosphere
- Using resources

What Skills Will I Develop?

This course focuses around working scientifically – being able to investigate scientific concepts and explain them through good knowledge and understanding. This qualification uses contemporary, relevant contexts of interest to candidates, which can be approached through a range of teaching and learning activities.

Why Study Chemistry?

Chemistry, as a field of general science, is sometimes considered the central science as it connects Biology, Physics and Earth Sciences together. By gaining an understanding of substances on a molecular level, Chemists devise new materials such as fuels, drugs and even food!

Assessment

Paper 1 Chemistry (50%) 1 hour 45 minutes written exam

Paper 2 Chemistry (50%) 1 hour 45 minutes written exam

All students complete a series of practical investigations which are examined as part of the written exams.

Homework

Students are set 45 minutes of homework every week consisting of carrying out research tasks and completing past paper questions.

Where Could This Course Take Me?

The skills gained in the GCSE Triple Science suite are well valued by both employers and colleges. For those wanting to pursue a career in a scientific field, GCSE Triple Science is favoured as it demonstrates the learners have gained more in depth knowledge of scientific concepts. Other vocations however, regard the investigative, problem solving and communication skills, which are developed as part of this course, invaluable in their specialisms.

TRIPLE AWARD SCIENCE - GCSE PHYSICS

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Mrs D Fox DFox@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

This course is designed to recognise the impact of Physics in everyday life. It will allow learners to make informed decisions about issues that involve Physics, and help them to understand the information that they will be supplied with in more depth compared to Dual Award Science. Learners in E band will have the option to study GCSE Physics as part of the Triple Science suite. Overall, students will achieve 3 GCSEs in Science subjects.

What Will I Study?

- Forces
- Energy
- Electricity
- Waves
- Magnetism and Electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic Structure
- Astrophysics

What Skills Will I Develop?

This course focuses around working scientifically – being able to investigate scientific concepts and explain them through good knowledge and understanding. This qualification uses contemporary, relevant contexts of interest to candidates, which can be approached through a range of teaching and learning activities.

Why Study Physics?

Physics, as a field of general science, lays the foundations for all aspects of science as it is the study of the entire universe from the largest galaxy to the smallest fundamental particles. It explains everything from the world around us to the world inside us. Physics challenges our imaginations with concepts like relativity and string theory, and it leads to great discoveries, such as computers and lasers. Physics leads us to technologies which change our lives.

Assessment

Paper 1 Physics (50%) 1 hour 45 minutes written exam

Paper 2 Physics (50%) 1 hour 45 minutes written exam

All students complete a series of practical investigations which are examined as part of the written exams.

Homework

Students are set 45 minutes of homework every week consisting of carrying out research tasks and completing past paper questions.

Where Could This Course Take Me?

The skills gained in the GCSE Triple Science suite are well valued by both employers and colleges. For those wanting to pursue a career in a scientific field, GCSE Triple Science is favoured as it demonstrates the learners have gained more in depth knowledge of scientific concepts. Other vocations however, regard the investigative, problem solving and communication skills, which are developed as part of this course, invaluable in their specialisms.

BTEC LEVEL 2 AWARD IN SPORT

Qualification	Level 2 BTEC (1.0 GCSE Equivalent)
Exam Board	Pearson Edexcel
Subject Contact	Mr M Mullock MMullock@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

This is a three year course appealing to students who enjoy combining theoretical understanding and practical application of Sport and Physical Education. It is designed to give students an awareness and understanding of fitness, sports leadership, practical sport and anatomy and physiology.

What Will I Study?

The BTEC Sport Level 2 Award in Sport covers a wide range of theoretical and practical elements. The course is designed in to 4 units, where you will study topics that include:

- Fitness for Sport and Exercise;
- Practical Sports Performance;
- The Sports Performer in Action; and
- Leading Sports Activities.

What Skills Will I Develop?

Throughout the course pupils will develop a variety of skills based around sports performance and the theory of sport. Independent ICT skills (Microsoft Word, Publisher and PowerPoint) are thoroughly developed as is presenting work for assessment. Pupils are often grouped together to develop skills such as leadership, communication and organisation that are frequently assessed alongside the ability to answer short and longer marked questions for the examination-based unit.

Why Study BTEC SPORT?

The BTEC Sport course suits pupils who are highly motivated and are willing to work both independently and within larger groups. They must have a keen interest in sport and ideally play for a team/club outside of school. Excellent ICT skills combined with good background knowledge of a range of sports is desirable as pupils often have to compare and contrast concepts and theories from the sporting world.

Assessment

The BTEC First in Sport Award consists of 4 units:

- Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise (25%) 1 Hour Online Examination
- Unit 2: Practical Sports Performance (25%) Coursework
- Unit 4: The Sports Performer in Action (25%) Coursework
- Unit 6: Leading Sports Activities (25%) Coursework

A variety of forms of assessment are used such as presentations, PowerPoints, posters, Microsoft Word documents, sports leadership sessions and evaluations. Photographic and video evidence are also used frequently. Pupils are assessed against set criteria for each unit and take the form of a Pass, Merit or Distinction grading.

Homework

Homework is provided to embed pupils' knowledge and understanding, and often takes the form of extended written answers to tasks and revision for unit topic tests. Homework will also focus on the completion of tasks started in lessons, where pupils are aiming to achieve their highest possible grade in a unit e.g. a Merit or Distinction grade.

The online examination for Unit 1: *Fitness for Sport and Exercise* requires a large amount of detailed revision as it is an externally set 1 hour exam. Pupils do have the opportunity to re-sit this examination if the required grade is not gained.

Where Could This Course Take Me?

This course could take you on to further study in the field of Physical Education or Sport by completing a higher qualification such as A-Level Physical Education or Level 3 BTEC National in Sport. Career paths could include Sport Scientist, Sports Coach, Physiotherapist, PE teacher, Fitness Instructor or Personal Trainer.

GCSE TEXTILES

Qualification	1.0 x GCSE (1-9)
Exam Board	AQA
Subject Contact	Mrs M Jones MJones@penketh.warrington.sch.uk



Introduction

This three year course is designed to accommodate the needs and interests of individual pupils, their personal development and the ability to apply technical and practical skills which are highlighted throughout the course. Pupils have the opportunity to specialise in Painting and Drawing, Printing, Fashion and Textiles or Three Dimensional Studies. A course sketchbook must be kept and a formal assessment programme is employed with regular grading and marking. Students experience individual tutorials and portfolio presentations to self- evaluate their performance in the subject.

What Will I Study?

Practical work will range from drawing and painting, sewing, three dimensional work, to printed and constructed textiles. Pupils will experience a broad range of differing materials and techniques and work within a design-based course. The history and appreciation of Art and Design is explored through the use of the extensive subject specialist library within the department and both Gallery visits and artist in residence workshops.

What Skills Will I Develop?

Subjective and objective skills in drawing and painting, sewing fabric screen printing, research, development and analysis skills

Why Study Textiles?

Art and Design is a very popular subject and our students enjoy success with pass rates consistently in the 90% range. All work is practical so there is no written examination. Projects are delivered to suit all levels of ability.

Assessment

Unit 1 Work is assessed in the form of coursework (60%). Pupils will be expected to complete two to three extended units of work based on a contemporary/traditional Artist craft worker or designer. In Year 11, pupils will complete an individual unit of work, which is tailored towards the pupil's strengths and interests.

Unit 2. An externally set practical paper (40%) to be completed over a ten hour period under examination conditions.

Homework

Homework will be given regularly throughout the course. This will include research, preparation work and sketchbook work, completing tasks or deadlines.

What Could This Course Take Me?

Pupils will be expected to complete two to three extended units of work based on a contemporary/traditional Artist craft worker or designer. In Year 11, pupils will complete an individual unit of work, which is tailored towards the pupil's strengths and interests.