

King Charles I School



Year 8 Option Choices September 2021

Year 8 Option Choices for September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Choosing GCSE options is a big decision in your son/daughter's life. The choices that he/she makes now can have a major influence upon future education, employment and, ultimately, life chances. We treat the options process extremely seriously and are fully committed to providing you and your son/daughter with the best possible advice and support in making these important decisions.

There is clear evidence to show that your son/daughter's life chances will be dramatically improved by achieving at least eight GCSE or equivalent qualifications across a broad and balanced range of subjects. The government has now raised the participation age (RPA) to 18, which means that your son/daughter will be expected to remain in some form of education (school, college or apprenticeship) to age 18. This makes the need to achieve their potential in all their subjects including English and mathematics at Key Stage 4 even more vital.

Alongside the changes to participation age, there are also changes to the GCSE programmes. GCSEs in England are being reformed to make them more challenging, to keep pace with employers' and universities demands. GCSEs will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. Students who would have got a grade C or better will get a grade 4 or better. Students who would have got a grade A or better will get a 7 or better. Grade 9 will be more difficult to achieve than a grade A*. The extra top grade will also make it easier for employers and universities to distinguish between the most able students. All subjects are now reformed. This means that the subject content is more challenging; coursework has significantly decreased, or is no longer available, in many subjects; and all courses have examinations at the end of Year 11.

As you know secondary schools are now rightly judged on the progress that students make from the beginning of Year 7 until the end of Year 11 using the 'Progress 8' score. Last year was another record breaking year at King Charles I School and the students made outstanding progress across a range of subjects. The table below shows our 'Progress 8' scores for the last three years. As you can see, it is getting better each year and has always been 'above average'. We are delighted that, once again, we are the secondary school in the Wyre Forest where the students made the most progress from the beginning of Year 7 until the end of Year 11.

Year	'Progress 8' score
2017	+0.26 (above average)
2018	+0.38 (above average)
2019	+0.30 (above average)

Our 'Progress 8' score in 2018 means that the grades our students achieved were around a third of a grade better than other students nationally. This success is in large part due to the subject choices the students made for their GCSE pathways. As you read through this booklet, with your son/daughter, please consider the following questions carefully:

- 1) What type of qualifications should my son/daughter take?
- 2) What is the workload and requirements of the subjects chosen?
- 3) How will these qualifications help in my son/daughter's career pathway?
- 4) Does my son/daughter enjoy these subjects?
- 5) Is my son/daughter currently successful at these subjects?

I trust you will find the content of this booklet informative. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely

Jamie Butler
Associate headteacher

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum (Years 9, 10 and 11)

During the first two years of your son's/daughter's education at King Charles I School, they will have studied a wide range of subjects laying the foundation for study at examination level in Years 9, 10 and 11. It is very important that certain subjects should be studied throughout the period of secondary education; these subjects are compulsory and form the core curriculum.

Core curriculum:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- a language (French or German) as there is increasingly more evidence that employers are looking for competence in languages in today's globalised world.
- a humanity (history or geography) as essay writing skills are vitally important preparation for A Level courses, employment and university courses.
- Physical education (sports science)
- Personal, Health, Social and Religious education.

The rest of your son's/daughter's timetable will comprise of their options choices. Some of the subjects offered at key Stage 4 are new and have not been studied before. Some are familiar to students from their studies in Years 7 and 8.

The 'English Baccalaureate'

King Charles I School has placed renewed emphasis on specific subjects that facilitate the greatest flexibility both into A-Level and at University. When these subjects are combined they are called the 'English Baccalaureate'. In order to achieve the English Baccalaureate, students must study the following:

- English
- Mathematics
- At least two science qualifications (trilogy combined science, physics, biology, chemistry or computer science)
- A humanities subject (geography or history)
- A modern foreign language (French or German)

These qualifications will considerably enhance students' life chances and therefore, where it seems in the students' best interests, we will direct all students to the appropriate subject combinations.

Year 9: The "transition year"

GCSE courses are designed to be two years in length. The Year 9 curriculum is designed to best prepare students to study the GCSE curriculum in all of their subjects. Students will study complementary material and content that is outside of the GCSE specifications in order for them to have a broader and deeper understanding of the subject. They will start studying their GCSE courses in Year 10 and take the final examinations in Year 11.

The Options Process Timeline

Friday 8th January	Future Choices Evening invite distributed to students and parents/carers
Monday 11th January	Options assemblies begin
Thursday 25th February (6.00pm – 8.00pm)	Future Choices evening
Friday 26th March (9.00 am)	Deadline for choices
Week commencing Monday 21st June	Letter confirming receipt of choices to students and parents/carers

Options advice and guidance

We are keen that students feel supported during the options process, we recommend that students access at least one of the sources of support listed below.

1. Form tutors
2. Subject teachers
3. Subject leaders
4. Head of Year 8 – Miss Warrington
5. SENCO – Miss Bott
6. Communication Centre Manager – Mr Burkin
7. Achievement leader – Miss Willis
8. Careers Information, Advice and Guidance tutors
9. Parents/carers
10. Any member of the senior leadership team

Students should

- Research the information about the options choices;
- Choose subjects that they enjoy and meet any future requirements that can reasonably be anticipated;
- Choose subjects that give them the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects. In doing so we hope they will develop a wide range of skills. Since most students will change their minds about a career a number of times before leaving school, the general aim is to avoid undue specialisation at this stage;
- Give careful consideration to the balance of work in Key Stage 4 courses and other school activities.

Students should not

- Choose subjects simply because a friend has chosen them;
- Make a choice based on their like or dislike of a particular teacher as there are many changes of teacher between Years.

Careers advice and guidance

There a number of useful websites that may help students and their parents/carers when selecting their options:

- <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx> The National Careers Service website provides comprehensive details of career requirements and education pathways. A great starting point for students who are not sure of their future direction.
- www.careerconnect.org.uk An independent careers advice service, providing a wide range of career management services
- www.ucas.com Advice on university application and course requirements

The Option Choices

All students will continue with their English, mathematics, science, a humanity, a modern foreign language, physical education, PSE and religious education courses. These are known as core subjects.

Core subjects (Compulsory)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ English language GCSE ▪ English literature GCSE ▪ mathematics GCSE ▪ trilogy combined science GCSE or separate science GCSE ▪ sports science technical award
Must select one humanity subject	either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ geography GCSE or ▪ history GCSE
Must select one modern foreign language	either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ French GCSE or ▪ German GCSE
Two further choices from the open subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ art GCSE ▪ business studies technical award ▪ computing GCSE ▪ drama technical award ▪ textiles GCSE ▪ hospitality and catering vocational award ▪ French GCSE ▪ geography GCSE ▪ German GCSE ▪ health and social care technical award ▪ history GCSE ▪ ICT technical award ▪ music GCSE ▪ performing arts - dance technical award ▪ physical education GCSE ▪ product design GCSE ▪ religious studies GCSE

The table above indicates the range of subjects that are available for all students to choose from. Students will not be selecting from the Core subjects, as these are a statutory requirement for all students. These subjects will provide at least 6 GCSEs for your son/daughter.

Students will select at least one humanity subject from either geography or history. Students will have an opportunity to select both humanity subjects if they so wish.

Once you have chosen your humanity, you now need to select at least one foreign language. There are two choices for those students who are currently studying either French or German. Again, those students who want to study both languages have the opportunity to select a second language if they wish.

Finally, students have the opportunity to select two subjects that will prepare them for their future career aspirations. As indicated above it is a free choice, and some students may choose to do a second humanity and a second language.

Science pathways at GCSE

We are pleased to be able to offer two pathway routes through Key Stage 4 (GCSE) science.

Trilogy combined science pathway	Triple separate science pathway
Students achieve two GCSE grades for trilogy combined science	Students achieve three GCSEs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GCSE biology ▪ GCSE chemistry ▪ GCSE physics
Six examinations at the end of Year 11 each worth 16.7% of the final grades. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two examinations in GCSE biology. ▪ Two examinations in GCSE chemistry. ▪ Two examinations in GCSE physics. Each examination paper will contain questions on biology, chemistry and physics; and on practical skills perfected over the duration of the course	Six examinations at the end of Year 11 each worth 50% of the final grades. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two examinations in GCSE biology. ▪ Two examinations in GCSE chemistry. ▪ Two examinations in GCSE physics. Each examination paper will contain questions on practical skills perfected over the duration of the course.
No controlled assessment or coursework.	No controlled assessment or coursework.

All students will follow the triple separate science pathway for the duration of year 9. Mrs Elliott will write separately to students and their parents/carers in the summer term of year 9 to confirm eligibility for the separate science pathway. In year 10, students who study the separate science pathway will drop sports science.

Students who do not study the separate sciences are still able to achieve the top grades in GCSE trilogy combined science and will be able to do A Level science courses (subject to meeting the subject entry requirements).

If you have any questions about the two GCSE pathways in science, please do not hesitate in contacting Mrs Elliott (curriculum leader for science).

Commonly asked questions

Question: What do you do if too many students opt for one subject?

In previous years we have been able to enable the majority of our students to study their first choice subjects at Key Stage 4. If the first choices result in a subject being over-subscribed then we will do everything we can to find a solution. However, if this is not possible, then the following process will be used: If the first choices result in a subject being over-subscribed then students (and their parents/carers) opting for this subject are contacted by letter. This will give details of the level of over-subscription and ask if any student is willing to change to another subject. If insufficient students volunteer to change their option, then we have to draw lots. Parents/carers will be informed when this is happening.

Question: What do you do if too few students opt for one subject?

Unfortunately, if demand for a particular subject is small, it may not be possible to run that subject. This is dealt with on a one to one basis. Students and their parents/carers will be kept informed at all times.

Question: Will you be able to timetable all choice combinations?

Over the past few years we have been able to enable the majority of our Year 9 students to study the subject combinations they have chosen for Key Stage 4. In exceptional cases it **may** be impossible to timetable some choice combinations. Individual interviews will take place with students who have chosen subject combinations which cannot be timetabled. Students and their parents/carers will be kept informed at all times.

Question: Do you offer any new subjects at Key Stage 4?

There are a number of subjects we offer at Key Stage 4 that are not taught at Key Stage 3 e.g. business studies and health & social care. The teachers of these subjects are always available to discuss the issues relating to their subject at Key Stage 4. The Subject leaders for these departments will speak to all students during the options assemblies.

Question: Will my son/daughter be allowed to 'swap' courses if they do not like their options, once courses have begun?

We know that you and your son/daughter will consider option choices carefully. We would ask that you would use the opportunities at the 'Future Choices Evening' as well as the information in this booklet to find out as much information as you can about what the study of particular subjects involves. The Year 9 transition year does allow for some movement between options however students will **not**, as a matter of course, be permitted to swap subjects once students begin their GCSE courses in Year 10.

Question: What subjects do you offer at A Level?

We currently offer a wide range of courses at King Charles I School. For more information students should visit the Sixth Form link on the website or speak to the relevant subject leader.

Subject information

Subject	Qualification	Curriculum	Page
Art	GCSE	Option	9
Business studies (Enterprise)	Technical award	Option	10
Computer Science	GCSE	Option	11
Design & Technology – Hospitality & catering	Vocational award	Option	12
Design & Technology – Product Design	GCSE	Option	13
Design & Technology – Textiles	GCSE	Option	14
Drama	Technical award	Option	15
English Language	GCSE	Core	16
English Literature	GCSE	Core	17
Geography	GCSE	Option	18
Health & Social Care	Technical award	Option	19
History	GCSE	Option	20
ICT- iMedia	Technical Award	Option	21
Mathematics	GCSE	Core	22
MFL French	GCSE	Option	23
MFL German	GCSE	Option	24
Music	GCSE	Option	25
Performing Arts – Dance	Technical award	Option	26
Physical Education	GCSE	Option	27
Religious Studies	GCSE	Option	28
Trilogy Combined Science	GCSE	Core	29
Separate Science	GCSE	Core	31
Sport science	Technical award	Core	33

Art
GCSE – EDEXCEL
Subject Leader: Mr Farrow

What's it all about?

You will have the opportunity to experience and use a variety of materials during the course including paint, print 3D working, drawing, mixed media and digital media. You need to be prepared to use materials in an experimental way.

You will research artists and their work, both visually and through critical comment. Gallery visits support this element of the course.

You will observe and record the world in a visual way, often through drawing in a variety of media. You can also use photography to record visual information.

You need to develop your own ideas, making connections/reference to the work of other artists, choosing the most appropriate materials to create a final piece for each coursework unit.

Who should take it?

Anyone interested in the visual world, who is keen to develop their own ideas in a visual way.

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn a range of art and design skills, giving you the confidence to work in both two and three dimensions.

You will learn about the ideas underpinning different artist's work, and how you can adapt them to suit your own purposes.

You will develop the confidence to talk about and analyse your own work and that of others.

How will I be assessed?

All coursework and examination work is documented in a sketchbook or work journal. This is maintained throughout the GCSE course.

The final examination is based around a theme set by EDEXCEL. You are given the examination paper three months before the examination date in order to develop your ideas and reference the work of other artists.

Course work and exam work is displayed in an exhibition at the end of Year 11.

What do your current students say?

"We always have something that I find fun, or interesting planned"

"It gives me a creative outlet. The lessons are well structured, and are focused on progressing – I enjoy that"

Is there anything else I need to know?

You will be expected to buy your own sketch book; these are available to buy from the art department.

Who can I contact for further information?

afarrow@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Business studies (Enterprise)

Tech award - EDEXCEL

Subject Leader: Miss Watkins

What's it all about?

The world we live in is dominated by businesses, whether big or small. With the new BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise, you can explore what it means to set up and run a business enterprise, as well as develop key skills and gain an insight into the sector.

Who should take it?

If you are interested in finding out about how to start a new business and then help it grow then this is the course for you.

What will I learn on this course?

Component 1 (Exploring Enterprises): In this component you will:

- examine the characteristics of enterprises
- explore how market research helps enterprises meet customer needs
- understand competitor behaviour
- investigate the factors that contribute to the success of an enterprise

Component 2 (Planning for and pitching an enterprise): In this component you will:

- explore ideas for a micro enterprise activity
- plan and pitch the success of a micro enterprise activity

Component 3 (Promotion and finance for Enterprise): In this component you will:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of elements of promotion and financial records
- interpret and use promotional and financial information in relation to a given enterprise
- make connections between different factors influencing a given enterprise
- advise and provide recommendations to a given enterprise on ways to improve its performance

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 and 2 are internally assessed assignments.

Component 3 is an externally assessed task where you will be provided with a case study of a small to medium enterprise and complete a series of activities

What do your current students say?

"We have learnt so much already about the way business works and we are only 2 weeks in"

"I didn't know there was so much different businesses in Kidderminster"

"It feels so good to be building my own future"

Is there anything else I need to know?

A simple calculator will be required.

Who can I contact for further information?

hwatkins@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Computer Science

GCSE – OCR

Subject Leader: Mr Mander

What's it all about?

Every aspect of our lives in the 21st century has been affected by the development of technology. From farming to health care, computer science has revolutionised the way in which we collate, share and use data. This course explores how a computer works, how we communicate data securely between devices and how to turn ideas into working solutions using programming amongst many other topics. You don't have to be a 'techie' to do this course, just interested in finding out.

Who should take it?

You must:

- Be interested in how computers work
- Have a logical and mathematical type approach to solving problems
- Be able to develop solutions to problems according to a client brief
- Have the determination to solve problems; not giving up when faced with challenge.

What will I learn on this course?

The course is broken down into three units as follows:

Component 1 (Computer Systems):

Focused on how a computer works; this unit covers the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, networking, cyber security and types of software. It also looks at a range of ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Component 2 (Computational thinking, algorithms and programming):

This unit builds upon the knowledge and skills learnt in component 01. You will develop your skills and understanding in computational thinking; algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

Practical Programming:

The final aspect of this course is the exposure to practical programming. You will be taught key programming concepts in Python throughout the course and apply this to scenarios where you have to analyse, design, develop, test and evaluate a solution to a problem.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 (Computer Systems): This is an external examination lasting 1 ½ hours. It is worth 50% of your overall mark.

Component 2 (Computational thinking, algorithms and programming): This is an external examination lasting 1 ½ hours. It is worth 50% of your overall mark.

What do your current students say?

"Computer Science is really interesting and covers a range of topics. Since starting the GCSE we have been taught programming from scratch and have support sessions which we can drop in to."

"So far in the course I have developed my problem solving skills to a level where I now feel comfortable developing solutions. The theory links in well with the programming tasks."

Is there anything else I need to know?

There are a number of options available for students successfully completing a GCSE in computer science. This course provides challenge to develop problem solving skills which are sought after beyond school. The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science. People who have studied computer science have gone on to be games programmers, hardware engineers, aerospace engineers, the list is endless! Access to a computer at home is recommended, however ICT suites are available after school to students when required.

Who can I contact for further information?

dmander@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Hospitality and catering

Level 1/2 - WJEC

Subject Leader: Ms Finney

What's it all about?

This course is a level 2 vocational course (**this is the equivalent of a GCSE** and the grades are given as distinction, merit and pass). The hospitality and catering course allows students to develop the skills and knowledge required to prepare high quality food within a domestic or commercial catering setting. This style course equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook for a range of different clientele and investigate how the hospitality and catering industry works.

Who should take it?

Anyone interested in studying food, becoming a dietician or working within the catering industry such as training to become a chef or working in events and hospitality. Those with a keen interest in learning about food preparation as well as nutrition and meal planning would also benefit from the course.

What will I learn on this course?

Some of the things the students will learn on this course will be to develop a broad knowledge of ingredients, techniques, standard components and equipment. They will develop a wide range of practical skills to produce high quality food products. Students will have the opportunity to develop menus, recipes and plans for making and demonstrate safe and hygienic working practices at home and in a commercial environment. The students will also learn about the hospitality industry including things such as employment and food laws, calculating profit and loss, understanding the importance of technology and the different roles within the hospitality and catering industry.

How will I be assessed?

The course will be assessed through a piece of controlled assessment which accounts for 60% of the final grade, part of this will be a practical catering element where students will need to produce 2 dishes in 3 hours. The students will also sit an online written examination, which accounts for 40% of the final.

What do your current students say?

'I really enjoy the practical aspect of this course and have learnt to cook lots of dishes I would never have normally made and eaten'

'I have been really interested in the hospitality industry and now want to go on to be an event's manager in a hotel'

'I think it is really good to learn to cook as it is a life skill and I like the fact I get a break from the traditional academic subjects'

Is there anything else I need to know?

Please note students may cook once a week and all ingredients will have to be provided by the students.

Protective clothing will need to be purchased and worn for every practical these include chef whites, hat, hair net as well as a navy and white butcher's apron.

Who can I contact for further information? MXFinney@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Design and Technology

GCSE – Exam Board AQA 8552

Subject Leader: Mr Jefferson

What is it all about?

This GCSE allows students to study core technical, designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. Students will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

Who should take it?

You must:

- Enjoy designing and manufacturing products.
- Have an enquiring mind and willingness to explore ideas?
- if you like to put your ideas into practice

What will I learn on this course?

The course is an amalgamation of all the different disciplines of technology and so covers a very broad range of subject matter from graphics, resistant materials (woods, metals and plastics) through to electronics. It allows pupils to explore a wide range of construction media before specialising more in Year 11 through the non-examinable assessment task.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Written Paper 50% (2 hours) containing a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions.

Component 2: Non-examination assessment

Assessment overview:

- Students will undertake a project based on a contextual challenge released by AQA a year before certification.
- This will be released on 1st June and will be available on our website.
- The project will test students' skills in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype of a product.
- Task will be internally assessed and externally moderated.
- The marks are awarded for each part as follows.
 - Analysis (10 Marks)
 - Investigate (10 marks)
 - Design development (20 marks)
 - Design (20 marks) Realisation of design idea (20 marks)
 - Test and Evaluation (20 marks)

What do your current students say?

"It's fun as I'm a hands-on person and the practical projects will help me for my future career"

"Enjoyable subject and nice to see what you've made in a practical environment from your own ideas"

"You get a lot of freedom designing what you want and it's enjoyable seeing what you have created"

Is there anything else I need to know? (e.g. specialist clothing, equipment, materials etc.)

Protective clothing is available in the workshop although some students prefer to provide their own. The course encourages pupils to experiment with different materials. Some pupils choose more exotic or expensive materials that the school is not able to provide. In these circumstances the pupil will have to provide their own materials.

The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of Design and Technology/Engineering. People who have studied Design and Technology have gone on to be engineers, aerospace engineers, Automotive Engineers and Architects, the list is endless!

Who can I contact for further information?

bjefferson@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Design and technology - Textiles

GCSE Design technology– Edexcel

Subject Leader: Ms Finney

What's it all about?

Students will have the opportunity to use traditional skills and modern technologies incorporating a broad knowledge of materials, components and technologies not just in textiles but also in all of the design technology subjects. They will learn new practical skills, design and make products that demonstrate creativity and originality, develop decision-making skills through independent work, produce working drawings and production plans, use materials efficiently in relation to cost and environmental impact, develop the knowledge and understanding to evaluate and refine their own skills whilst making and develop an awareness of commercial practices and employment opportunities.

Who should take it?

If you are interested in a career in fashion design, costume design, interior design and textiles design this course is for you. It will also give a useful starting point for a wide range of other careers in art and design and other careers such as fashion marketing or journalism.

What will I learn on this course?

The course involves small projects mixed with focused practical tasks. Within the project work students have opportunities to develop their practical skills by experimenting with decorative textiles techniques, making own fabrics, use of CAD/CAM and competent use of the sewing machine is taught plus much more.

How will I be assessed?

The course will be assessed in 2 sections- the students will complete one NEA based on a brief released by the examination board which accounts for 50% of their final grade and a written examination again worth 50%.

What do your current students say?

'Textiles lets you be creative and expressive when designing and making'

'The practical lessons are really fun because you get to design and make lots of different things'

The theory lessons are good and the teachers help you'

The class is small so you get lots of individual help from the teachers'

Is there anything else I need to know?

In textiles we have a variety of materials and components which students can use but on occasions and for the extended project students may be asked to supply their own fabric and components.

Who can I contact for further information?

MXFinney@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Drama

Technical award – AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs Morgan

What's it all about?

The course allows students to develop and demonstrate competence in a range of practical, creative and performance skills. Students are encouraged to work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating, developing and communicating ideas. The course provides a 'real life' insight into the world of acting and prepares students with the requisite skills needed to apply for drama school or audition for semi-professional and professional work.

Who should take it?

Drama students should have a keen interest in a wide range of theatrical styles and a passion for being on stage and performing. If you are determined, resilient and have a desire to succeed, this is the right course for you! You must be prepared to attend extra-curricular rehearsals.

What will I learn on this course?

The qualification develops students' sector-specific knowledge and skills within a practical learning environment. Students will learn how to develop their acting style and skills, study the effective ways of working in the performing arts industry and develop the knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector. Students are given opportunity to prove their aptitude by reproducing repertoire or responding to stimuli.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Unlocking creativity (internally assessed)

Learners will be asked to come up with a performance idea based on guidance from a range of practitioner DVDs. Learners will understand, plan and deliver the activities required to put on a successful performance including business planning and pitching. Learners will produce a portfolio of research, planning and ideas to enable them to put on a performance. They will then go on to pitch this idea as a group to camera. A short extract of the performance idea will also be presented. This is worth 30% of the overall course.

Unit 2: The production/performance (internally assessed)

Learners will work towards producing a performance to an audience based on a list of five briefs. Learners will choose one discipline from either a list of performance roles including acting, dancing, singing, instrumental musician, musical theatre, variety performance, pantomime, physical theatre and circus skills or a list of production roles including costume, set design, properties, make-up, lighting, sound, stage, original writing, directing, choreography, PR and film production. This is worth 30% of the overall course.

Unit 3: The performing arts experience (externally assessed)

Learners will draw on knowledge and understanding from units 1 and 2 and also from:

- roles and responsibilities within the performing arts industry
- the role of performing arts in society
- approaches to rehearsal
- working as a deviser/performer/director
- design and technical elements.

This is worth 40% of the overall course.

What do our current students say?

"Drama is fun and I am able to express another side of me."

"I enjoy the lessons and this subject has developed my confidence."

Is there anything else I need to know?

You will be required to attend extra-curricular rehearsals and evening performances that showcase assessed practical work. Additionally, you will be expected to take an active role in school productions. The department organises a range of educational visits and workshops to the theatre throughout the year.

Who can I contact for further information?

jlacy@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

English Language

GCSE – AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs Perry

What's it all about?

English Language is about unlocking the skills you will need for all other subjects in school. You will learn to read and interrogate a text, analyse language and write coherent and structured work. Additionally, you will develop your imagination for writing and speaking and listening. This course will help you to develop an enjoyment of reading a range of interesting and varied texts.

Who should take it?

All students will study the English Language course – it is a core subject.

What will I learn on this course?

Reading: Students will be expected to read and analyse a range of literary texts, literary non-fiction and transactional writing. They will synthesise ideas and information; identify and interpret themes, ideas and characters; analyse language, structure and form and use evidence to support and justify their point of view and inferences.

Writing: Students will be expected to write accurately, fluently and at length for a range of different purposes and audiences. They will select vocabulary, grammar, form and structural and organisational features to reflect audience, purpose and context. They will further develop their ability to evaluate and reflect upon their own writing, restructuring their writing and amending its grammar and vocabulary to improve coherence, consistency, clarity and overall effectiveness.

Speaking and Listening

Although no longer assessed as part of their final GCSE, students will still be assessed in this crucial skill. They develop their ability to speak confidently, audibly and effectively in a range of different contexts and for a range of different purposes and audiences.

Breakdown of the course: External Examination (100%)

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

1 hour 45 minutes (50% of qualification)

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language (the new name for speaking and listening)

Non-exam assessment - Unweighted

Who can I contact for further information?

kperry@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

English Literature

GCSE – AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs Perry

What's it all about?

English Literature students will be expected to read and analyse a selection of literature from differing genres: prose fiction, plays and poetry and will cover a range of different eras from the 19th century novel to the contemporary poet. As with English Language, students will identify and interpret themes, ideas and characters; analyse language, structure and form and use evidence to support and justify their point of view and inferences.

Who should take it?

All students will study the English Literature course – it is a core subject.

What will I learn on this course?

Students will engage with several texts: Macbeth (Shakespeare), Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (Stevenson), An Inspector Calls (Priestley), and poems from a given anthology.

Breakdown of the course:

Paper 1: Shakespeare (Macbeth) and the 19th-century novel (Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde)

1 hour 45 minutes (40% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Modern texts (An Inspector Calls) and poetry (from an anthology and unseen poetry).

2 hours and 15 minutes (60% of GCSE)

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed in examination/timed conditions throughout their learning journey in English Literature to ensure that they can apply the necessary skills and work under pressure within time constraints. As the course is 100% examination, it is crucial that students become comfortable with this form of assessment.

What do our current students say?

- “English Literature is most definitely one of the most interesting subjects available. It offers you the opportunity to learn about a range of authors, poets and playwrights.”
- “If you are keen to explore texts, English Literature is for you. If you enjoy being critical, English Literature is for you. If you want to go on a journey, English Literature is most definitely for you.”
- “We have amazing teachers who help us to get through our work more easily; they present it in a way which relates and engages us all.”

Is there anything else I need to know?

- The texts that students study will be provided by the school. However, students often choose to purchase their own copy of these texts and the revision guides that accompany them.
- The literature examinations are closed-book, which means that students are not allowed to take notes, books or reference material into the examination room. As they are relying entirely on their memory to answer the questions set, it is vital that students learn as much content as possible off by heart. For each text, this content includes knowledge of: context, characters, plot, themes, key vocabulary and key quotations.

Who can I contact for further information?

kperry@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Geography

GCSE – AQA

Subject Leader: Mr Pearson

What's it all about?

Many people find that the study of geography to GCSE opens up an understanding of the world around them which enhances both leisure and work experiences. Geography also teaches lots of skills that are valuable throughout life. Students gain and develop a variety of transferable skills, for example, presenting and analysing data, problem solving, and extended writing. Students develop independence and organisational skills whilst carrying out research and collecting data during fieldwork.

Who should take it?

You should take geography if you have an interest in the ever changing world around you. You will have the opportunity to study many different places and societies as well as investigate the causes behind geographical events such as floods. Geography is a well-respected academic subject. It brings together sciences and humanities including chemistry, biology, maths, history, citizenship and English. Possible careers include: logistics, leisure and tourism, cartography, landscape architecture, town planning, environmental conservation, meteorology, surveying, civil service, teaching, management, finance and administration.

What will I learn on this course?

- Physical geography topics: The challenge of natural hazards, Physical landscapes in the UK, The living world and geographical skills.
- Human geography topics: Urban issues and challenges, The changing economic world, The challenge of resource management and geographical skills.
- Geographical skills: Issue evaluation, fieldwork and geographical skills. This part of the course will include analysis of a pre-release booklet several months before the examination.

Fieldwork will be undertaken in two contrasting environments. We complete a river study in Carding Mill Valley near Church Stretton and an urban study to learn about investigations and data processing and analysis.

How will I be assessed?

- Each paper includes a mix of short answer questions and extended written pieces equivalent to one side of A4.
- Paper 1: Living with the physical environment. The paper lasts for 1 and a half hours and is worth 35% of the GCSE grade.
- Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment. The paper lasts for 1 and a half hours and is worth 35% of the GCSE grade.
- Paper 3: Data responses and Skills. This paper lasts for 1 hour 15 minutes and is worth 30% of the GCSE grade.

What do your current students say?

'Geography helps you make sense of the world around you. It's fun and exciting! Geography is a great subject choice because of all of the different topics and places you will learn about!'

Is there anything else I need to know?

For the rivers study to Carding Mill Valley stream you will need a pair of wellingtons and a waterproof. A good knowledge of what's going on in the world is really helpful – keep up with the news!

Who can I contact for further information?

sgpearson@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Health and Social Care

Technical award - EDEXCEL

Subject Leader: Miss Streater

What's it all about?

It is exciting times for health and social care students at King Charles I School. Health & social care is a great option for those who want a hands on course offering practical experience. .

Who should take it?

Anyone with an interest in Health and Social Care but specifically those who wish to get involved in the sectors of health, child care or education.

What will I learn on this course?

Within this course, three units will be studied across two years. Below are some examples to give you a flavour of the course.

Health and Social Care Services and Values:

You will learn about the range of health and social care services (primary, secondary, tertiary), and any barriers individuals face accessing them and how they may be overcome.

Human Life Span Development:

You will study the areas of growth and development that contribute to the whole person, including physical, intellectual, emotional and social. You will reflect on physical, social and economic factors that are part of everyone's life, such as relationships with family, and consider the ways they may impact on each area of growth and development.

Health and wellbeing:

You will study why it is important to look after health and wellbeing. You will explore the mental and physical aspects of health and a holistic approach to care provided by healthcare practitioners.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in two different ways. Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. This is where your teacher will give you an assignment brief and will mark your work against a criterion. Your third assessment will be an external assessment. This will be a task set and marked by the exam board. The grades are Level 2 pass, Level 2 merit, Level 2 distinction and Level 2 distinction*.

What do your current students say?

"Taking home the baby simulator was amazing! I didn't resent being up all night as it taught me what it would be like to have a baby!"

"Health & social care is a fantastic course, the coursework allowed me to achieve a grade higher than I would have at GCSE! Thanks!"

Is there anything else I need to know?

You do not need any specialist equipment to take health and social care.

Who can I contact for further information?

nstreater@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

History

GCSE – OCR B

Subject Leader: Mr Jadayel

What's it all about?

Following reforms mandated by the government, history now comprises a study of approximately 1000 years. This comprises depth and breadth studies, evaluating continuity and change across periods as well as a study of the historic environment in its context. The course builds on the concepts and literacy that have been developed throughout Key Stage 3.

Who should take it?

Anyone with an interest in the world around them – either in the past or present day. History is a highly useful tool in understanding what is going on around us and as a traditional academic discipline provide challenge, interest and stimulation.

History is widely regarded as a valuable course of study in many employment areas. It develops an awareness of the world and develops literary and analytical skills, which are widely valued professionally. The course can also provide a stepping-stone to higher study, as well as encouraging an interest for life.

Careers in journalism, law, commerce, management, finance, marketing, teaching, archive and museum work, theatrical costume design, antiques, archaeology, heritage work, conservation, restoration and civil service all value a history qualification.

What will I learn on this course?

Students will learn about different areas that have affected the world we live in today, starting with the Norman Conquest, and then focusing on changing nature of public health from the Black Death onwards, a study of Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1945 and a study of the developing American frontier in the 19th century. There will also be an opportunity to study the historic environment through a study of the changing use of Harvington Hall from its Elizabethan origins through to the present day.

How will I be assessed?

The course will be assessed through three exams at the end of the course.

What do your current students say?

“History is fun, you learn so much in further detail in a fun environment”

“History allows you to be a reflective learner, it gives you time to think about yourself, and others around you. Developing knowledge on the important issues that affect you”

“You should study history because you get a better insight into how the world came to be and the organisations that are important to it”

Is there anything else I need to know?

We offer a trip in the autumn of Year 11 to Berlin to complement the study of the Nazis in power. There will also be opportunity to visit a historical site to help with the study of the historical environment.

Who can I contact for further information?

fjadayel@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

ICT (Creative iMedia)

Level 2 – vocational qualification – OCR

Subject Leader: Mr Mander

What's it all about?

This course will equip learners with a range of skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. The hands on approach has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media; exploring the use of a range of software packages.

Who should take it?

This course is suitable for all students. It provides skills and understanding that can help in all other subjects and it will contribute to almost all career paths.

What will I learn on this course?

R081 (Pre-production skills): This first unit underpins the other learning in this qualification. Students will learn about how to plan pre-production effectively including understanding of client requirements and reviewing pre-production briefs. They will use this knowledge in the optional units when they develop their own media products. This unit also provides excellent transferable skills such as project planning which will be useful in a wide variety of contexts.

R082 (Creating digital graphics): Digital graphics are a key part of most digital products and this mandatory unit will help support the other optional units in the suite. Students will learn the basics of digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector, considering client requirements that they learnt about in R081.

R087 (Creating interactive multimedia products): This unit will enable learners to understand the basics of interactive multimedia products for the creative and digital media sector. They will learn where and why interactive multimedia is used and what features are needed for a given purpose. Students develop their own interactive multimedia product for a given scenario.

R089 (Creating a digital video sequence): The unit will enable learners to understand where digital video is used in the media industry such as television, film, web applications or computer gaming. The learner will also learn how these technologies are developed to reach an identified target audience alongside producing their own video sequence for a given scenario.

How will I be assessed?

R081 is assessed through a formal examination lasting 1hr 15mins, accounting for 25% of the qualification. Students can have 2 attempts at this.

All other units are assessed through the completion of coursework in school and account for 25% of the qualification.

What do your current students say?

"I am enjoying this course and learning about Creative iMedia and knowing that this will be incredibly useful later on in life reassures me that I should do just fine when I have a job. The course is very interesting and enjoyable."

"I am enjoying the course as have learnt a lot about using media within businesses which I never thought possible before. The course has taught me a lot, which I will find useful within the future as I myself wish to be self-employed. The course is incredibly enjoyable and teaches a lot of things which can be used not only in work but also at home."

Is there anything else I need to know?

All evidence that you submit for these qualifications must be the result of your own work. You must not submit someone else's work or idea as your own and you must not copy from someone else or allow another candidate to copy from you. Access to a computer at home is recommended, however ICT suites are available after school to students when required.

Who can I contact for further information?

dmander@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Mathematics

GCSE – EDEXCEL

Subject Leader: Mr Nangalia

What's it all about?

The GCSE curriculum is designed to extend your knowledge further on all key aspects of the curriculum that has been studied at key stage 3. Students will learn how to apply their knowledge to solve problems in a variety of contexts. This course will help you to develop as a logical thinker and as a problem solver.

Who should take it?

All students have to take mathematics; it is a core subject.

What will I learn on this course?

At key stage 4, the mathematics curriculum is broken down into number, ratio, proportion & rates of change, algebra, geometry and statistics and probability. There is an element of functional mathematics which will develop the students' understanding of using mathematics in practical situations, which is now included as a routine part of the GCSE mathematics examination.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed in examination/timed conditions throughout their learning journey using half-termly assessments. Assessments will consist of 75% skills style questions, which will help students identify their strengths and weaknesses and an additional 25% of functional style questions, which require students to apply their knowledge. In Year 11, students will sit an assessment at the end of the first half-term based on GCSE exam material and will sit two full mock examinations in January and March. Depending on the group the student is in, they will sit either the Linear Higher or Foundation GCSE examination in the Summer of Year 11. There is no controlled assessment or coursework element to GCSE mathematics.

What do your current students say?

"I really like my maths teacher because he lets me know what level I need to work at and what I can improve on"

"We use good resources online"

"Maths is really good, I enjoy the lessons as they make me think"

Is there anything else I need to know?

As well as the standard equipment, each pupil is expected to have the following equipment for mathematics lessons: 30cm ruler and a scientific calculator – For GCSE we recommended the Casio natural display calculator FX-85GTPLUS which can be bought directly from the school.

Other recommended equipment: a 180 degree protractor, and a pair of compasses.

Who can I contact for further information?

nangalia@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

MFL – French

GCSE – AQA

Subject Leader: Miss Tabellion

What's it all about?

A GCSE in a modern foreign language aims to:

- Develop all four skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening)
- develop awareness and understanding of the countries and communities where French is spoken
- provide you with a suitable basis for further study and practical use of French

Languages are all around us; they are used in so many situations whether at work, on holiday or just casually in day-to-day life - we live in a multilingual global society.

Studying a foreign language enables you to gain excellent transferrable skills, such as flexibility, knowledge and awareness of another culture as well as improved conversational abilities, a greater mastery of languages in general, better study skills, greater discipline, and enhanced concentration and focus.

What's more, having studied a language will make you stand out from the crowd and, consequently, have far healthier career options. For example, **70%** of businesses in the West Midlands use one foreign language, **50%** use 2 or more languages and **48%** of these businesses use an interpreter due to a lack of employees with language skills. If you are not yet convinced, **76%** of British employers say that they value language skills in their employees.

Graduates with language qualifications have been shown to earn an average of **10%** more than non-linguists in comparable jobs.

What will I learn on this course?

Theme 1: Identity and culture (Youth Culture, Lifestyle, Customs & Traditions)

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest (Home & Locality, France & French Speaking Countries, Global Sustainability)

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment (Current Study, World of Work, Jobs & Future plans)

How will I be assessed?

- **Reading** (25% of qualification)
- **Listening** (25% qualification)
- **Writing** (4 tasks, 25% of qualification)
- **Speaking** (3 tasks, 25% of qualification, non-exam assessment)

Who should take it?

All Students have to take a language at GCSE, it is a core subject, however only students who have studied French previously can continue with French.

What do your current students say?

"It looks good on your CV and university applications if you have a language"

"GCSE languages expand your knowledge of other cultures and countries"

Is there anything else I need to know?

After school revision sessions focusing on specific skills and cultural trips/visits available.

Who can I contact for further information?

ctabellion@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

MFL – German

GCSE – AQA

Subject Leader: Miss Tabellion & Miss Perks

What's it all about?

A GCSE in a modern foreign language aims to:

- Develop all four skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening)
- develop awareness and understanding of the countries and communities where German is spoken
- provide you with a suitable basis for further study and practical use of German

Languages are all around us; they are used in so many situations whether at work, on holiday or just casually in day-to-day life - we live in a multilingual global society. Studying a foreign language enables you to gain excellent transferrable skills, such as flexibility, knowledge and awareness of another culture as well as improved conversational abilities, a greater mastery of languages in general, better study skills, greater discipline, and enhanced concentration and focus.

Studying a language will improve your career options. For example, **70%** of businesses in the West Midlands use one foreign language, **50%** use 2 or more languages and **48%** of these businesses use an interpreter due to a lack of employees with language skills. If you are not yet convinced, **76%** of British employers say that they value language skills in their employees.

Graduates with language qualifications have been shown to earn an average of **10%** more than non-linguists in comparable jobs.

What will I learn on this course?

Theme 1: Identity and culture (Youth Culture, Lifestyle, Customs & Traditions)

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest (Home & Locality, Germany & German Speaking Countries, Global Sustainability)

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment (Current Study, World of Work, Jobs & Future plans)

How will I be assessed?

- **Reading** (25% of qualification)
- **Listening** (25% qualification)
- **Writing** (3 tasks, 25% of qualification)
- **Speaking** (3 tasks, 25% of qualification, non-exam assessment)

This GCSE qualification in German offers assessment at foundation and higher tier. Each learner must take assessments in either the foundation tier or the higher tier only.

Who should take it?

All Students have to take a language at GCSE, it is a core subject. Students who have only done German in Years 7 and 8 will continue with German and will not be able to switch language.

What do your current students say?

“It looks good on your CV and university applications if you have a language”

“GCSE languages expand your knowledge of other cultures and countries”

Is there anything else I need to know?

There are after school revision sessions focusing on specific skills, cultural trips/visits.

Who can I contact for further information?

ctabellion@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk or nperks@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Music

GCSE – OCR

Subject Leader: Mrs Morgan

What's it all about?

GCSE music offers an engaging course for students who enjoy performing, composing and listening. Performing and composing are each worth 30% of the final grade and require two performances and two compositions to be completed during the course. Listening and appraising is assessed through a 1 hour 30 minutes examination and is worth 40% of the final grade. Questions are based on four areas of study (The Concerto Through Time, Rhythms of the World, Film music and Conventions of Pop) which are analysed during the course.

Who should take it?

Students who:

- Have some performance ability on an instrument/voice
- Enjoy composing/creating their own pieces of music
- Are willing to listen to and study music from a wide range of musical styles

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn how to prepare a good quality performance on your main instrument/voice, how to compose in different styles and structures and how to analyse pieces of music. You will need to be able to work independently as well as with others and be willing to listen to music from a wide range of styles. Some understanding of stave notation is helpful.

The course offers the option of using music technology to realise a performance and as a tool to support student compositions therefore you will develop an understanding of a variety of music technology software. During the course students develop the ability to become effective and independent learners and critical and reflective thinkers.

How will I be assessed?

- Two performances will be internally assessed/externally moderated
- Two compositions (based on different areas of study) will be internally assessed/externally moderated
- One written examination which is externally assessed

What do your current students say?

"I enjoy music lessons because there is a lot of independent work and you are free to do composition and performance at your own pace."

"I enjoy the fact we are given freedom and we can play a variety of different styles and pieces."

"I enjoy the variety of composition, ensemble performance and solo performance – it keeps it interesting."

Is there anything else I need to know?

If you have your own instrument, it is helpful if you can bring it in for practical lessons.

Some keyboard skills are useful but not essential, as is some awareness of stave notation.

Who can I contact for further information?

cmorgan@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Performing Arts - Dance

Technical award - EDEXCEL

Subject Leader: Miss Cariss

What's it all about?

The content of the two year course covers both the practical and theoretical aspects of dance. A dance student should have a keen interest in a wide range of dance styles and a passion for being on stage and performing. Students will be required to attend extra-curricular rehearsals and evening showcases of performance work. Students will also be encouraged to take part in school dance evenings and engage in organised educational visits to the theatre to watch live repertoire.

Who should take it?

Dance students should have a keen interest in a wide range of dance styles and a passion for being on stage and performing. If you are determined, resilient and have a desire to succeed, this is the right course for you! You must be prepared to attend extra-curricular rehearsals.

What will I learn on this course?

The course will cover a range of practical units in which you will perform as part of a group and as a solo dance artist. Within the structure of the course you are able to perform taught repertoire and devise your own original work. You will also be given an insight into how dance classes and rehearsals are structured and carried out with the performing arts business.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in two different ways. Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. This is where your teacher will give you an assignment brief and will mark your work against a criterion. Your third assessment will be an external assessment. This will be a task set and marked by the exam board. The grades are Level 2 pass, Level 2 merit, Level 2 distinction and Level 2 distinction*.

The following units will be covered:

- Exploring the Performing Arts
- Developing skills and techniques in the Performing arts
- Performing to a brief

What do your current students say?

“Dance is fun and we get to perform lots of styles”

“You can develop your skills through extra rehearsals”

Is there anything else I need to know? (e.g. specialist clothing, equipment, materials etc.) You will be required to attend extra-curricular rehearsals and evening performances that showcase assessed practical work. The department organises a range of educational visits and workshops to the theatre throughout the year. Which you will be required to attend. A BTEC Dance T-shirt will need to be purchased. Black dance trousers or plain tracksuit bottoms will be worn in addition to this. Dancers will work in bare feet.

Who can I contact for further information?

nstreater@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Physical Education

GCSE – OCR

Subject Leader: Miss Cariss

The OCR National in sports science is compulsory for all students. GCSE physical education is also available for the students who excel in sports.

What's it all about?

Students have a fantastic opportunity to follow the new (9-1) GCSE examination course in physical education at key stage 4 if they want to further their interest in sport and exercise. Students will follow both theoretical and practical components, which are examined internally and externally.

Who should take it?

Students who wish to take this course must have a real interest and motivation to further their knowledge in the theoretical aspects of sport coupled with an excellent level of physical ability in a **range** of sports. This is why students **must** be performing at a school and club level. Students who take this course will prefer a traditional testing procedure with frequent end of unit tests a mock examination and a final written examination at the end of the course.

What will I learn on this course?

- Fitness and Body Systems
- Health and Performance
- Practical Performance
- Personal exercise Plan

How will I be assessed?

- Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes (Fitness and Body Systems – Physical factors) 36% of the qualification, 90 marks
- Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes (Health and Performance – Socio-cultural factors) 24% of the qualification, 70 marks Practical assessment: internally marked and externally moderated
- 30% of the qualification, 105 marks (35 marks per activity; team, individual, choice)
- PEP assessment: internally marked and externally moderated 10% of the qualification, 20 marks

Is there anything else I need to know?

- Please note a physical education polo shirt and hooded top with King Charles I crest is available to purchase through the PE Dept.
- For the GCSE PE course it is essential pupils are playing for clubs/teams within and beyond school and it is desirable that they have significant experience/ ability in at least 3 sports due to the complex nature of assessments.
- 1 written piece of independent study per week (GCSE). Practical homework per week, this is to attend a school based club. Every club is signed for by a member of staff.

Who can I contact for further information?

nstreater@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Religious Studies

GCSE - AQA (A)

Subject Leader: Miss Mandher

What's it all about?

GCSE Religious Studies is about 'life issues and morality' and it offers the students an opportunity for the thematic study of religion and responses to fundamental questions of life. Students develop their knowledge and understanding of religion by exploring the impact of beliefs, teachings and practices. The course also takes into consideration secular views on various topics relating to the subject. We encourage students to express their personal responses and informed insights on these fundamental questions, all the while having an open mind and being tolerant of the views of other people. Students are expected to draw on examples of the issues we cover as seen in the news, to further their understanding of how these issues are relevant in the modern day.

What will I learn on this course?

Some of the topics you will study include:

- Animal rights
- The environment
- Prejudice
- Early life
- War and peace
- Elderly and death
- Crime and punishment
- Rich and poor in British society

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is by examination only. There are two written papers, each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes. Both papers are worth 50% of the final grade.

- Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices
- Component 2: Thematic studies

What do your current students say?

"It's really fascinating. You get to learn about topics like the death penalty; euthanasia; abortion and then study what the religious beliefs are on those topics."

"It's really good, we get to have lots of discussions and debates about the topics we study and reflect on our own beliefs."

"This subject has helped me develop my understanding of a range of faiths. It has helped me be more tolerant and respectful of other peoples' beliefs, regardless of whether they are theist, atheist or agnostic."

Who can I contact for further information?

jmandher@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Trilogy Combined Science

AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs Elliott

What's it all about?

Science is the study of the world around us. Science has an impact on all of our lives each day and an understanding of science helps us to become informed citizens in a fast changing world.

Who should take it?

All students will work towards science qualifications in Years 9, 10 and 11.

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn the fundamental concepts of science, including some of the ideas laid down by Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Dmitri Mendeleev. However, the courses encourage students to become informed 21st century citizens also. Some of the topics you will study include:

- Forces
- Atomic Structure
- Ecology
- Particle model of matter
- Bonding, structure and properties of matter
- Bioenergetics

In addition, you will consider how science can be used to conduct a balanced argument on some more modern issues:

- Should we clone humans?
- Are hydrogen fuel cells the answer to our energy needs?

In addition to acquiring knowledge and understanding, you will learn a range of practical and investigative skills that are assessed in each of the 6 examinations.

How will I be assessed?

Trilogy Combined science is assessed by six written examinations, each exam lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes. **All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.** Two grades are awarded as described in the table.

	Weighting	The qualification will be graded on a 17-point scale: 1 – 1 to 9 – 9, where 9 – 9 is the best grade. This counts as two GCSE grades.
Biology Paper 1	16.7%	
Biology Paper 2	16.7%	
Chemistry Paper 1	16.7%	
Chemistry Paper 2	16.7%	
Physics Paper 1	16.7%	
Physics Paper 2	16.7%	

There is no coursework or controlled assessment for this course. The final grade is based solely on exam performance.

Each examination is available at two tiers. Teachers will use internal class assessments to decide which tier is most appropriate for each student.

Tier	Available Grades
Higher	4-9
Foundation	1-5

Students who complete the Trilogy Combined Science course are eligible to study A-level sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) at King Charles I School, as long as they achieve a grade from 9 to 6 in the Trilogy Combined Science course.

What do your current students say?

"I enjoyed seeing how science is relevant to the real world. The things I learnt have helped me to understand the things I hear on the news and read in newspapers."

"You have to be good at writing in science too. The extended writing questions are tough but I got really good marks because my teacher had explained to me how to do it."

"We get to do lots of experiments and they help me understand the concept we have learnt".

Is there anything else I need to know? (e.g. specialist clothing, equipment, materials etc.) Students must bring a calculator to all science lessons. Safety equipment, such as safety glasses, will always be provided when necessary.

Who can I contact for further information?

mkelliott@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Triple Separate Science

GCSE AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs Elliott

What's it all about?

Science is the study of the world around us. Science has an impact on all of our lives each day and an understanding of science helps us to become informed citizens in a fast changing world.

Who should take it?

All students will work towards science qualifications in Years 9, 10 and 11. At King Charles there is an opportunity for those students who are targeted to achieve at the 6-9 range and consistently achieving the required marks in the end of topic tests during Key Stage 3 to study the separate sciences.

Students will follow the AQA separate science GCSE qualification. Students studying the separate sciences will achieve three science GCSEs at the end of Year 11. These will be in the following subjects:

- GCSE biology
- GCSE chemistry
- GCSE physics

This academic and prestigious course is recommended for students that plan to study any science (biology, chemistry or physics) at A-level.

Not all state schools offer their students the opportunity of studying for three science GCSEs but this route is highly recommended by the Institute of Physics, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Society of Biology and the Confederation of British Industry.

Can all students choose to take separate science?

Separate science is suitable for students that are targeted to achieve at the 6-9 range and will be consistently achieving the required marks in the end of topic tests completed so far in year 9. They should also be in the top quartile of performers in their bi-annual examinations.

Students should speak to their science teacher or Mrs Elliott if they are unsure about their progress in science.

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn the fundamental concepts of science, including some of the ideas laid down by Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Dmitri Mendeleev. However, the courses encourage students to become informed 21st century citizens also. Some of the topics you will study include:

- Forces and energy
- The Periodic Table
- Classification of living things
- Our solar system
- Acids and bases
- The human body

In addition, you will consider how science can be used to conduct a balanced argument on some more modern issues:

- Should we clone humans?
- Are hydrogen fuel cells the answer to our energy needs? - Has there ever been life on mars?

In addition to acquiring knowledge and understanding, you will learn a range of investigative skills that are assessed within the final examinations.

How will I be assessed?

All of the GCSE science courses are split into two units:

	Weighting	
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Biology Paper 1	50%	A GCSE grade in Biology from grade 9 to grade 1
Biology Paper 2	50%	
Chemistry Paper 1	50%	A GCSE grade in Chemistry from grade 9 to grade 1
Chemistry Paper 2	50%	
Physics Paper 1	50%	A GCSE grade in Physics from grade 9 to grade 1
Physics Paper 2	50%	

Each examination is available at two tiers. Teachers will use internal class assessments to decide which tier is most appropriate for you.

Tier	Available Grades
Higher	4-9
Foundation	1-5

If you wish to study A levels in science (biology and/or chemistry and/or physics) at King Charles, you must achieve a grade from 9 to 6 in the separate science GCSE examinations.

The breadth of examined topics is broad and includes genetics, chemical bonding, electricity, human biology, rates of chemical reactions and forces.

What do your current students say?

“Taking separate science was the best way to prepare for A levels in science.”

“I enjoyed seeing how science is relevant to the real world. The things I learnt have helped me to understand the things I hear on the news and read in newspapers.”

“You have to be good at writing in Science too. The extended writing questions are tough but I got really good marks because my teacher had explained to me how to do it.”

Is there anything else I need to know?

Students must bring a calculator to all science lessons. Safety equipment, such as safety glasses, will always be provided when necessary.

Who can I contact for further information?

mkelliott@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

Sport science

Technical award - OCR

Subject Leader: Miss T Cariss

What's it all about?

Sports science is a varied and wide ranging course with several disciplines covered, equipping you for further study in sport at post 16. The content of the course covers both the practical and theoretical aspects of physical education.

What's involved?

Sport Sciences offers learners the opportunity to study key areas of sport science including anatomy and physiology linked to fitness, health, injury and performance; the science of training and application of training principles in sport and sports performance.

Who should take it?

Sports science is compulsory for all learners as it teaches students the importance of leading an active lifestyle as well as vital components of fitness and nutrition.

Assessment Methods

Component 1: Reducing the risk of sports injuries. Students will develop their understanding of how to prepare to take part in physical activity in a way which minimises the risk of injuries occurring, how to react to common injuries and provides a good foundation to undertake formal first aid training qualifications. This unit is externally assessed through a written examination.

Component 2: Applying principles of training. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the principles and methods of training and the application of these in the design of training programmes along with practical skills in fitness testing. This unit is an internally assessed task which is then moderated externally.

Component 3: The body's response to physical activity. In this unit students will understand key aspects of the structure and function of the musculo-skeletal and cardio-respiratory systems and investigate the changes which occur to them in response to short and long-term physical activity. This unit is an internally assessed task which is then moderated externally.

Component 4: Sports nutrition. Students will learn how to follow a healthy and balanced diet. They will also learn about the effect of a poor diet. Students will apply their dietary knowledge to athletes in different sports and activities creating a diet plan for a performer. This unit is an internally assessed task which is then moderated externally.

Each component contributes to 25% of the overall grade for the course.

What will I learn on this course?

- Personal development through practical participation and performance in a range of sports and exercise activities.
- A wider theoretical content appreciation of fitness in sport including body systems and how energy is used in different types of sporting situations.

Who can I contact for further information?

nstreater@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk