CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The Curriculum and GCSE Choices For Key Stage 4

2023 - 2025

Table of Contents

Introduction

Dear parents, carers and students,

This booklet represents an important milestone in your future. Within its pages you will find a large variety of subjects and courses on offer for the two years of study in Year 10 and 11 at Camden School for Girls. Much effort has gone into making it both informative and interesting; it is important that you understand where you have choice, and what those choices are, as well as gaining something of the flavour of the subject matter and style of working.

Please read this booklet carefully. There are details about subject content, frequency of exams, coursework demands and suggestions about personal study expectations. These details will help you to gain an idea of the work you will be covering and how you will be expected to work. Be careful not to simply choose new subjects for their originality but look carefully at their suitability for you. Try to consider your whole programme rather than look at subjects in isolation. Some subjects complement one another, whereas others may be too close in content and might reduce your flexibility later in your educational and professional journey.

Many of you will find it difficult to make choices. It might be wise to take '**AIM**' to help you.

A = your *Ability* in a subject.
You will do well if you work to your particular strengths.

I = your *Interest* in a subject.
This will sustain you through hours of homework and revision.

M = *Motivation* to achieve.

Finally, remember that there are many people who can help you make good decisions. Talk about the possible choices as a family. Be sure to seek a balance of views. Talk to subject teachers, particularly form tutors who will have an overall view of your talents. Look into the future, asking what any one subject might lead you towards at sixth form and beyond. Above all, do not be anxious about the decisions. There are very few choices that will prevent you from following a future path, even if you change your mind.

I would like to wish you all the best in your experience in making your GCSE choices.

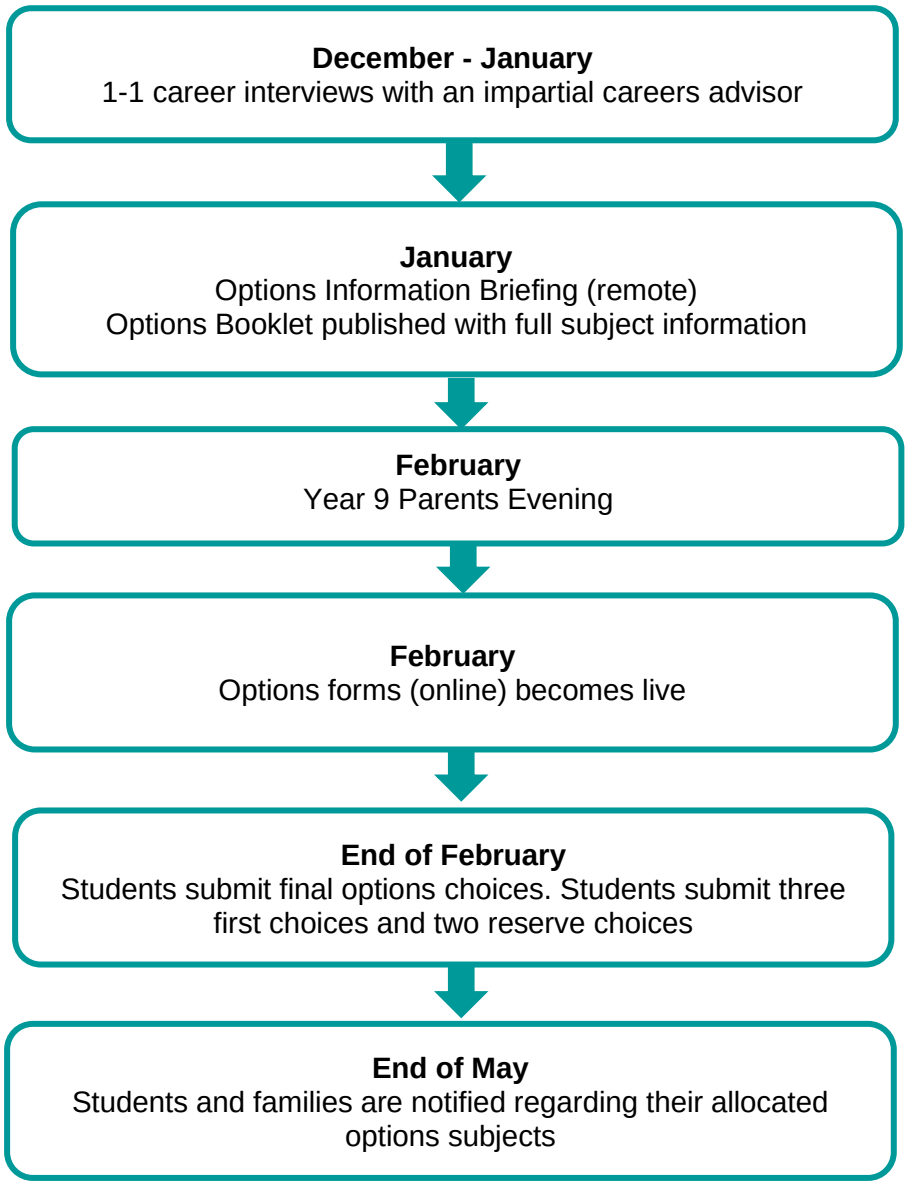
Best wishes

Kateryna Law
Headteacher

Options Choices Timeline

This is the first time since starting school that our pupils have had the opportunity to take control of a significant part of their curriculum. We sincerely hope you enjoy the process of learning about the different courses and subjects we offer as well as having conversations about the future – including further education choices and possible employment routes.

Choosing options for study in Key Stage 4 is an important part of the year for our Year 9 students and therefore we devote time to supporting them in making the right decisions. The following dates represent the significant milestones along the way:



Please note that although we are committed to allocating the students' first choice subjects, this is not always possible due to timetabling constraints and group sizes.

Key Staff

Please find below a list of key staff involved in the options process. Please get in touch with a relevant member of staff if you require further support:

Name	Role	How they can help
Ms Manas	Head of Year 9	Ms Manas is your first point of contact regarding options choices.
Ms Hamilton	Careers Lead (Years 7 - 11)	Ms Hamilton can provide further information around Sixth Form, College and options beyond year 11 as well as future careers.
Ms Ahmed	Connexions Careers Adviser	Ms Ahmed carries out 1:1 careers interviews with all year 9 students.
Ms Toman	Assistant Headteacher (Careers)	Ms Toman oversees the entire Options process and liaises closely with Ms Farrow and Ms Hamilton on ensuring students and families are fully supported.

We encourage students to speak to Heads of Department and subject teachers regarding their options to find out, in detail, what it is like to study a particular subject. Form Tutors also play a role in supporting students in making the most suitable choices for them and in addition, our Head Girl Team organise lunchtime drop-in sessions, sharing their experiences of Key Stage 4 Study and providing another helpful avenue of support.

The Structure of Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4 consists of year 10 and year 11. It is made up of two elements: the Core subjects which are compulsory and the Options subjects which students can select.

Compulsory subjects

All students take 7 GCSEs as their core subjects and these are compulsory as follows: -

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Combined Science counts for 2 GCSEs)
- Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish)
- Theology

Options subjects

Students can then choose another 3 subjects which are called Options from the below:-

- Latin
- Classical Civilisation
- Art
- Music
- Triple Science
- Computer Science
- Design Technology - Textiles
- Design Technology – Product Design
- Health and Social Care (v)
- Technical Award in the Study of Hair and Beauty (v)
- Geography
- History
- Sociology
- Physical Education

Classical Greek and Further Maths GCSEs are studied in lessons before or after school – this is called off grid which means the lessons are not part of the main timetable. The impact of this means that selecting these subjects will not count as one of the three options choices. Please note Health and Social Care and the Technical Award in the Study of Hair and Beauty are vocational qualifications and not GCSEs.

Non-examined subjects

All students will participate in Core PE for one double lesson a week. There is no formal external assessment. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities such as Basketball, Yoga, Circuit training and Rounders. Students will also study PSHEE – Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education.

English Language and English Literature

In GCSE English Language you will:

- Develop and enhance your personal skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening.
- Learn to become critical readers, able to evaluate and analyse what you read.
- Develop your ability to speak confidently and coherently, voicing your own opinions and responding thoughtfully to what others say.
- Develop your ability to write effectively in a range of forms: formal and informal, fiction and non-fiction.
- Develop your use of grammar and punctuation as well as acquiring a wide vocabulary.

You will learn by:

- Developing a secure understanding of a range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.
- Taking part in discussions on a range of challenging topics prompted by the texts we study and sharing ideas within the class.
- Studying increasingly sophisticated writing techniques.

You will be assessed by:

Two 1 hour, 45 minutes examinations

- Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing
- Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Course specification and further information:

We study AQA GCSE English Language 8700

Useful websites:

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zr9d7ty

Reading suggestions https://www.camdengirls.camden.sch.uk/page/?title=English&pid=25

Where could GCSE English Language take you next?

English Language is a compulsory subject at GCSE. The ability to speak confidently, read critically and write accurately is a skill which supports and enriches all aspects of life and future study.

Person to contact afearnside@csg.school

In GCSE English Literature you will:

- Learn to become critical readers, able to evaluate and analyse the ways in which writers shape meaning.
- Widen your knowledge and understanding of a range of contemporary and literary heritage texts.

You will learn by:

- Developing a secure understanding of a range of texts: *Macbeth, Pride and Prejudice, Animal Farm* and Love and Relationships or Conflict poetry.
- Researching the contexts in which the texts are written and received.
- Developing a personal response to texts by taking part in discussions and listening to the views of others.
- Studying increasingly sophisticated analytical skills.

You will be assessed by:

Two 2 hour examinations

- Paper 1 Exploring modern and literary heritage texts
- Paper 2 Exploring poetry and Shakespeare

Course specification and further information:

We study OCR GCSE English Literature

Useful websites:
https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/english-literature-j352-from-2015/
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zr9d7ty

Reading suggestions here

Where could GCSE English Language take you next?

English Literature is a compulsory subject at GCSE.
It provides an excellent preparation for studying A-Level English Literature, considered one of the Russell Universities Group's prestigious facilitating subjects. More importantly, it provides students with access to some of the best literature and hopefully a pleasure in reading that will last a lifetime.

Person to contact afearnside@csg.school

Mathematics

In Mathematics you will learn how to:

- Work with mathematical concepts such as number, algebra, ratio, geometry, probability and statistics.
- Develop skills such as data analysis, problem solving and reasoning which will enable you to engage critically with the world around you as an active citizen.
- Solve problems which connect different areas of mathematics together, or relate mathematics to the real world through modelling.
- Form rigorous mathematical arguments to address reasoning problems and proofs.

You will learn by:

- Practising skills in order to develop fluency in key mathematical procedures.
- Breaking down challenging problems into manageable chunks.
- Developing techniques to tackle problems set in unfamiliar contexts.

You will be assessed by:

- One 1.5 hour non-calculator paper worth 80 marks
- Two 1.5 hour calculator papers worth 80 marks each.

Course specification and further information:
The course studied is Pearson Edexcel

Useful websites:

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html
www.sparxmaths.com
https://www.drfrostmaths.com/
www.corbettmaths.com

Where could maths take you next?

GCSE Mathematics is essential for further study in both Science and Mathematics and is highly desirable for further study in all other subject areas. It is valued by employers and universities and is a requirement for entry to many occupations and degree courses. Students may choose to continue their studies further by taking A Level Maths and/or Further Maths, which is highly regarded by degree courses with a mathematical component such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, Economics, Medicine, Dentistry, Architecture or of course Maths! Maths is increasingly well-regarded in the social sciences (Politics, Geography, Sociology, Psychology) due to the nature of quantitative research.

Person to contact: jpinder@csg.school

Science

There are two different programmes for science in years 10 and 11.

One group of students study **Triple Science**, which comprises three separate GCSEs (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

Four other science groups take **GCSE Combined Science**. This double award is equivalent to two GCSEs.

In Combined Science, you will learn about the following:

- All of the necessary content required to continue Science at A Level, including:

Biology

Paper 1 topics: cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics,
Paper 2 topics: homeostasis and response, and ecology

Chemistry

Paper 1 topics: atomic structure & the periodic table, bonding, structure, & the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes,
Paper 2 topics: the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere, and using resources.

Physics

Paper 1 topics: energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure
Paper 2 topics: magnetism and electromagnetism, waves, and forces

Working scientifically: How scientific methods and theories develop over time, using models, the power and limitations of science, evaluating everyday and technological applications of science and evaluating risks, using scientific vocabulary, symbols and nomenclature, analysis and evaluation of data, planning investigations and carrying out a range of practicals including 21 core practicals.

You will be assessed by:

Combined Science:

At least one end-of-topic test in biology, physics and chemistry every term.
Y10 exams (1hr 15 mins each) in biology, chemistry and physics in May.

GCSE exams in June:

- Three 1 hour and 15 minute written examination on paper 1 topics (50% of the final grade)
- Three 1 hour and 15 minute written examination on paper 2 topics (50% of the final grade)

In Triple Science, you will learn about the following:

Mainly the same topics as Combined Science but with increased subject content taught to a greater depth. There is also a longer amount of time spent on practical work. In Triple Science, there will be one early morning lesson from 8.15 to 9.00 am.

Additional topics include:
Physics: space physics, electromagnetic induction, circular motion, moments, and optics.
Chemistry: nanotechnology applications, titrations, reactions and uses of alcohols, addition and condensation polymers.
Biology: DNA structure, cloning, the development of understanding of genetics and evolution, trophic levels in an ecosystem, factors affecting food security and farming techniques.
Working scientifically: A greater amount of time is spent on practical work, including 7 extra core practicals.

You will learn by:

- By following a curriculum designed to support the acquisition of the relevant knowledge, skills, and competencies required for each course but also to address future challenges such as climate change and global health.
- Developing essential skills to communicate, apply, use and investigate scientific knowledge and ideas. These include planning investigations, identifying and controlling variables and analysing, interpreting and evaluating data.
- Carrying out at least 21 core practicals over the two-year course. These support and consolidate the scientific concepts covered in lessons. You will be able to build and master practical skills such as using specialist equipment to take measurements, handling and manipulating equipment with confidence and fluency and recognising hazards to plan how to minimise risk.
- Using problem-solving and analytical skills to construct logical arguments and find solutions to complex problems.
- 'Learning how to Learn'. Cognitive and metacognitive skills are embedded into our science curriculum, helping you to develop transferable strategies.
- Building up an extensive vocabulary of keywords/terms and how to use them in learning how to learn strategies. You will be able to communicate complex ideas and use technical language correctly.
- Effectively using the online resources provided to support independent learning, including our revision classroom, which is packed full of lesson resources, checklists, revision material, practice papers, videos, and other learning ideas.

You will be assessed by:

Triple Science:
Each subject will have 1 or 2 end of topic tests (depending on the length of each topic).
GCSE exams in June:

- Three 1 hour and 45 minute written examination on paper 1 topics (50% of the final grade)
- Three 1 hour and 45 minute written examination on paper 2 topics (50% of the final grade)

Course specification and further information:

We follow the AQA exam specification.
Combined Science (called Trilogy)
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464/specification-at-a-glance

Triple Science:
Biology GCSE
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461/specification-at-a-glance
Chemistry GCSE
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462/specification-at-a-glance
Physics GCSE
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463/specification-at-a-glance

Useful websites
https://www.my-gcsescience.com/
https://www.doddlelearn.co.uk/

Where could Science take you next?

Both programmes of study will prepare you for A-level sciences. You will also learn transferable skills that are used outside of the sciences and linked to STEM careers and other professions.

There are hundreds of career paths available, but a few examples include the following:
Technical writer, Accountant, Computer programmer, Chemist, Financial analyst, Web developer, Environmental engineer, Systems analyst, Civil engineer, Mechanical engineer, Statistician, Psychologist, Database engineer, Database administrator, Mathematician, Economist, Data scientist and Dentist.

Science never stays still, and jobs unimaginable 20 years ago are thriving, with so many opportunities available to work in areas as diverse as biotechnology, medical data analysis, drones, nanotechnology, smart devices, and so much more.

Person to contact lcharlesworth@csg.school

French or Spanish

In French or Spanish you will learn about:

- understanding and providing information and opinions about themes relating to your own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where French or Spanish is spoken.
- communicating and interacting effectively for a variety of purposes across a range of specified contexts.
- making accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures, including some more complex forms, to describe and narrate with reference to past, present and future events.

You will learn by:

- exploring texts (reading, annotating, analysing, translating) which are increasingly complex from a variety of sources and themes
- conducting role-plays, short conversations, presentations for different purposes
- writing short and longer pieces on a range of themes for different purposes
- listening to a range of audio material to train your ear in sound-spelling correspondences

You will be assessed by:

- Paper 1: listening (25%)
- Paper 2: speaking (25%)
- Paper 3: reading (25%)
- Paper 4: writing (25%)

Course specification and further information:
You will be preparing for the AQA specification. There are two tiers of assessment: Foundation (1-5) and Higher (4-9).
Candidates may be entered for either Foundation or Higher in the four skills.

Where could French or Spanish take you next?

The GCSE is essential to pursue A Level French or Spanish. Language skills can be used in almost any career, and particularly in businesses that trade internationally. In an increasingly global jobs market, language skills are highly valued by employers, whichever career you go into. You can study for a language degree or study a language as part of a combined degree alongside many subjects.

Person to contact
French - hbenzina@csg.school
Spanish - mgarcia@csg.school

Theology

In Theology you will learn about:
The aim of this course is to challenge all students to explore, appreciate the value of, and critically assess different religious, theological and philosophical beliefs about God, humanity, the meaning of life and the nature of morality.

We will be considering and evaluating religious and non-religious views on a whole host of theological, philosophical, and ethical issues in the modern world with a view towards equipping students with informed views about these important matters.

You will be assessed by:

Unit One: Edexcel Religious Studies B: Christianity, Belief and Ethics
This part of the course is completed at the end of year 9 and in year 10. The course will cover four of the following topics:

1. Belief about God, creation and science
2. Living the religious life
3. Marriage and the family,
4. Matters of life and death including abortion and euthanasia

This course is assessed by 100% examination at the end of year 11. The two exams are 1hr45 mins each.

Unit Two: Edexcel B: Islam, Beliefs and Ethics
This part of the course is completed in year 11 and examines theological and philosophical questions in the following areas:

1. Beliefs about God
2. Living the religious life
3. Issues of Crime and Punishment
4. Issues of War and Peace

This course is assessed by 100% examination at the end of year 11. The exam is 1.75 hours and constitutes 50% of a GCSE.

Where could Theology take you next?

Completing the full Theology GCSE course is an excellent preparation for studying A level Theology, Philosophy, Sociology, Politics, History, English, and Classics but also good critical thinking development for all other A levels.

Person to contact
moconnell@csg.school

Art

In Art you will learn:

- How to communicate visually using different techniques, processes and materials
- How to work in a wide range of media and styles such as drawing, painting, print-making, textiles, ceramics and sculpture.
- How to see your creative ideas through from conception to completion.
- How to develop and refine your work, building on existing skills and trying new ones.
- You will study the work and creative processes of artists, designers and makers to help you further develop your own ideas through research and gallery visits.

You will learn by:

- Using a wide range of techniques and processes to visualise and realise your ideas.
- Making connections with artists' work
- Trying out materials and becoming familiar with their properties.
- Exploring, experimenting and taking risks

You will be assessed by:

The GCSE is made up of coursework (60% of the overall mark) and an externally set exam project (40% of the overall mark) and in both students are assessed on their ability to develop and refine ideas, make connections with artists' work, use art materials skilfully and produce finished work. The final portfolio will contain studies, sketchbooks and main pieces. At the end of the course there is an exhibition and a final assessment of the work is made. Students are assessed by the art staff and the marks are externally moderated by the exam board.

Course specification and further information:

This is a full course GCSE (9-1) in Art and Design (Fine Art) from Edexcel (syllabus code 1FA0)

COURSEWORK (60% of final mark)

- A substantial portfolio of work comprising main pieces, sketchbooks, supporting studies and artist research

EXAM (40% of final mark)

- A piece of work completed over ten hours in response to a theme
- A collection of supporting studies both in and outside of the sketchbook, including artist research

Where could Art take you next?

Advertising, Digital Design, Conservation, Special Effects, Video Production, Gaming, Animation, Ceramics, Education, Art Therapy, Interior Design, Publishing, Architecture, Museums and Galleries, Curating, Fashion Design, Brand Design, Illustration, Photography, Film and TV, Set and prop Design, Graphic Design, Printmaking, Sculpture, Computer design, Film Directing & Web Design.

Person to contact gpenny@csg.school

Classical Civilisation

In Classical Civilisation you will learn about Greek and Roman culture, mythology and literature, in English. Classical Civilisation is a subject that allows students to study a variety of different areas such as history, geography, drama, philosophy, archaeology, literature and religious and social values in their political setting.

The study of Classical Civilisation provides an understanding of ourselves - where many of our current ideas come from, and why our world looks like it does now.
It helps students to develop skills such as:

- critical and reflective thinking
- source analysis
- comparison of the ancient world with modern life
- forming a personal response to classical literature and civilisations
- arguing clearly both in discussion and on paper

You will learn by exploring and evaluating sources, objects and texts from the ancient world connected to two big themes:

Year 10: Component 1: Women in the Ancient World (50%)
Everyone from Pandora to Cleopatra, Medusa to Boudicca, queens, housewives, prostitutes and goddesses – they all have tales to tell and they are all represented in different ways in ancient Greece and Rome. This wide-ranging module prepares you to think critically about the portrayal of women, about the kinds of roles and power that women had in the ancient world, and to gain a fascinating insight into women both of myth and of history.

Year 11: Component 2: The Homeric World (50%)
The first written story of Europe was that of the Trojan War. The second was Odysseus' adventures after winning that war – how he was cursed by the gods to wander the seas, meeting monsters and witches, desperate to return to his loyal wife and son. In this module, we read sections of this great epic poem (in English) and take a look at the archaeological evidence of this very early Greek era, again combining both myth and history in an analytical way.

You will be assessed by regular marked work on the prescribed sources, and creative tasks related to the culture of the Greeks and Romans. At the end of the course you will sit two exams, one on each module.

Course specification and further information: OCR GCSE in Classical Civilisation.

Where could Classical Civilisation take you next?
Some of the industries in which you find people who have studied Classical Civilisation: Journalism, Politics, Diplomacy, The Civil Service, Technology, The Foreign Office, Performing Arts, Social Sciences, Publishing, Medicine, Marketing, Law, Psychology, TV & Radio Production & Education.

Person to contact ***hmaguire@csg.school***

Classical Greek

In Classical (Ancient) Greek you will learn about the language, literature and culture of Ancient Greece. The study of Classical Greek helps students with the following:

- the study of vocabulary extends your knowledge of vocabulary in other languages
- the study of grammar helps with understanding the structures of all languages and develops logical skills, clear thinking and good communication
- the study of literature supports your work in English and helps you understand another culture in depth
- the study of Greek culture provides an understanding of ourselves - where many of our current ideas come from, and why our world looks like it does now.

You will learn by using Greek to GCSE, a textbook which works step-by-step through this fascinating language, building up your knowledge of the alphabet, then your understanding of vocabulary, grammar and culture. You will also learn by studying real Greek texts written by real Greeks. Lessons will be held after school, as an extra qualification on top of your other options.

You will be assessed by regular marked work on the language, and written and creative tasks related to the literature and culture of the Greeks. At the end of the course you will sit three exams.

1. **Greek Language (50%):** involves unseen translation, comprehension and some very simple sentences from English to Greek.
2. **Prose Literature (25%):** this focuses on a story in Greek by the historian Herodotus, which we will read and study together in class.
3. **Verse Literature (25%):** this focuses on extracts from a poem or a play in Greek which we will read and study together in class. In past years, we have studied parts of Homer's Odyssey and parts of Euripides' tragedies in the original language.

Course specification and further information: We study the OCR Classical Greek GCSE. We also offer a mid-point qualification to work towards at the end of Year 10: the Intermediate Certificate in Classical Greek.

Where could Classical Greek take you next?

Classical Greek is very highly regarded by universities and employers as it demonstrates a logical mind and an openness to new ideas. It is three subjects in one - language, literature and historical study, so it prepares you with a wide variety of skills. Some of the industries in which you find people who have studied Ancient Greek and Classics: Journalism, Politics, Linguistics & Translation, The Civil Service, Technology, The Foreign Office & diplomacy, Performing Arts, Social Sciences, Publishing, Medicine, Marketing, Law, International Relations, TV and Radio Production and Education.

Person to contact ***hmaguire@csg.school***

Computer Science

In Computer Science you will learn about:

Unit 1 Computer Systems

This component will introduce learners to the systems architecture, computer memory and storage, computer networks and protocols, network security and systems software. It is expected that learners will become familiar with the impact of Computer Science in a global context through the study of the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with Computer Science.

Unit 2 Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

This component incorporates and builds on the knowledge and understanding gained in unit 1, encouraging learners to apply this knowledge and understanding using computational thinking. Learners will be introduced to algorithms and programming fundamentals, how to produce robust programs, Boolean logic and programming languages and Integrated Development Environments. Learners will become familiar with computing related mathematics.

You will learn by:

- Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving where you are encouraged to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- Developing a secure understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science.
- Practical Programming - You will analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs.
- Applying mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science

You will be assessed by:

Unit 1 - 50% of GCSE, Exam in Year 11, 80 marks, 1.5 hours
Unit 2 - 50% of GCSE, Exam in Year 11, 80 marks, 1.5 hours

Course specification and further information:

OCR J277 GCSE Computer Science - Full specification can be downloaded from the exam board at https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020

Where could Computing take you next?

GCSE Computer Science counts as a Science in the English Baccalaureate measure. Having a computing qualification will provide you with a foundation of knowledge, problem solving and logical thinking that will serve as a competitive advantage whatever career is chosen. Technologies continue to have a growing importance in this country and further afield.

Person to contact jman@csg.school

Design Technology – Textile Products

In Textiles, you will:

Study a GCSE subject where you can use your intelligence and creativity in a lively and industrious atmosphere. Textile product design is a rapidly changing area of study which gives students the opportunity to innovate and develop textile products inspired by the vast and ever-changing end uses. From wearable tech to inclusive design students are challenged to learn through developing and making their own ideas, equipping them with many transferable and academic skills valued by future employers such as project management and collaborative working.

You will learn about the following:

- Natural and synthetic fibres, modern and smart materials.
- Sustainable design.
- Social and ethical design in the manufacture of products.
- The work of a range of past and present designers and artists.
- Current trends in design and manufacture of high street and couture fashion.
- Computer Aided Design (CAD) Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM).

You will learn by:

- Developing your creativity.
- Investigating user needs.
- Experimenting with ideas and materials.
- Developing skills in how to create and present original design work.
- Understanding new technologies.
- Developing a range of practical skills to problem solve designs.
- Understanding the importance of ethical issues and design for a sustainable environment.

You will be assessed by:

- The Exam: 50% of total GCSE which is a written examination at the end of Year 11, testing core knowledge and technical principles linked to product design and technologies.
- Non Examined Assessment (NEA): 50% of total GCSE (Design portfolio project evidencing design development and prototyping of a product completed in lesson time during Year 11)

Course specification & further information:

AQA Specification

Useful websites:

https://www.vam.ac.uk/
https://designmuseum.org/
https://www.fashiontextilemuseum.org/
https://www.stem.org.uk/secondary/careers

Where could GCSE Textiles take you next?

Textiles has much to offer across a wide range of career paths in fashion, tailoring, costume design, product design, manufacturing, materials science, performance-wear, interiors and merchandising. The broader areas of materials, science, engineering and applied maths will be studied and assessed through the theory learnt throughout the course and provides the academic rigour and preparation for STEM based careers where there is a demand for increasing the diversity of talent.

Person to contact lronayne@csg.school

Design Technology – Product Design

In Product Design, you will:

Develop a flair for designing, making and innovation of new products and enjoy the intellectual and creative challenges of the lively and industrious workshops. Studying Design and Technology **Product Design** opens the door to a wide range of careers in the increasingly economically thriving creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. It is also excellent preparation for careers in many other fields e.g. digital technologies, medicine, business and computer science.

You will learn about the following:

- Materials and their production.
- Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM).
- Sustainable design.
- Social and ethical design in the manufacture of products.
- The work of a range of past and present designers and artists.
- Virtual design and 3D printing.
- Furniture design.
- Electronic and engineered products.

Studying Design and Technology contributes to the development of many transferable life skills highly prized by employers. Throughout their studies we promote collaboration, resilience, resourcefulness and enterprise. It is a unique feature of D&T that each student acts as project manager, overseeing the process of design from identifying a design problem to prototyping a proposed solution. The broader areas of materials, science, engineering and applied maths will be studied and assessed through the theory learnt throughout the course and provides the academic rigour and preparation for STEM based careers where there is a demand for increasing the diversity of talent.

You will learn by:

- Developing your creativity.
- Investigating user needs.
- Experimenting with ideas and materials.
- Developing skills in how to create and present original design work.
- Understanding new technologies.
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Course specification and further information:

AQA Specification

Useful websites:
https://www.vam.ac.uk/
https://designmuseum.org/
https://www.stem.org.uk/secondary/careers
https://degreesandcareers.info/resources/stem-in-the-uk/

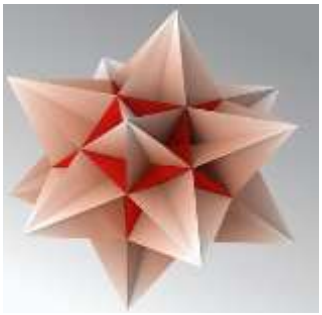
Where could Product Design take you next?

If you are interested in a possible career in product design, engineering, architecture, styling, production design, media, graphic design, digital design,set design, construction or the vast array of careers in the creative sector!

Person to contact lronayne@csg.school

Further Mathematics

In Further Mathematics you will learn how to:



- Work with high level mathematical concepts such as algebra, geometry, differentiation and matrices.
- Bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level Maths/FM by working on topics taught at the start of the A Level course.
- Solve problems which connect different areas of mathematics together, or relate mathematics to the real world through modelling.
- Form rigorous mathematical arguments to address reasoning problems and proofs.

This is an extra subject taught before and after school. It does not take up one of your options choices.

You will learn by:

- Practising skills in order to develop fluency in key mathematical procedures.
- Breaking down challenging problems into manageable chunks.
- Developing techniques to tackle problems set in unfamiliar contexts.

You will be assessed by:

- One 1 hour 45 minute non-calculator paper worth 80 marks.
- One 1 hour 45 minute calculator paper worth 80 marks.

Course specification and further information:

The course studied is AQA Level 2 Further Maths

Useful websites:

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/aqa-certificate/further-mathematics-8365/specification-at-a-glance
www.sparxmaths.com
https://www.drfrostmaths.com/
www.corbettmaths.com

Where could further maths take you next?

- Further Maths is excellent at bridging the gap between GCSE and A Level Maths and/or Further Maths. Although Further Maths is not a requirement for studying A Level Maths or FM, students who take the course find the transition to A Level much smoother, as they have developed skills in the most complex aspects of the GCSE Maths course as well as tackling some A Level only topics, such as differentiation and matrices.
- A Level Maths and/or Further Maths is highly regarded by degree courses with a mathematical component such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, Economics, Medicine, Dentistry, Architecture or of course Maths!

Person to contact jpinder@csg.school

Geography

In Geography you will learn about:

Physical Geography, in particular

- *Natural hazards*, including earthquakes, volcanoes, and extreme weather events as well as climate change
- *Rivers and Coasts*, with an emphasis on how they shape the UK
- *Ecosystems*, especially concentrating on hot deserts and tropical rainforests

Human Geography, in particular

- *Urban geography* -focusing in detail on two cities, Lagos (Nigeria) and London (UK)
- *Economic geography*, where we look, for example, at the impact of globalisation on the UK and Nigeria
- *Resources*, where, for example, we will explore the impacts of climate change on the world's scarce resources, including energy and water

You will learn by:

- Making strong links between what we are studying in class and events that you see every day on the news
- Debating ideas with your teachers and colleagues
- Problem-solving driven by a desire to make the world a better place
- Making use of the dedicated CSG geography website, packed full of lesson material, practice papers, videos, and other learning help

Experiencing geography first-hand on a compulsory residential fieldtrip to Brecon in Wales

You will be assessed by:

1. A Physical Geography exam (1.5 hours) worth 35% of the total mark.
2. A Human Geography exam (1.5 hours) worth 35% of the total mark
3. A synoptic and fieldskills exam, which joins up all your geography with a problem-solving exercise (1 hour) worth 30% of the total mark

Course specification and further information:
We follow the AQA exam specification
(https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035)

The Guardian Newspaper wrote about geography that:
"The evidence shows that students who study geography through their school lives become some of the most employable people in society. Geography seems likely to deliver both a job and excitement. With subjects such as global warming, deforestation and changing farming practices, it is hard to think of a geography subject that does not affect people and that is not affected by their actions. Geography is the one practical discipline we really need to tell us how the Earth is progressing"

Geography lends itself to a very wide range of future careers including: Managers, Lawyers, Aid and Development, Politicians, Planners, Architects, Management consultants, Travel & tourism, Banking, Media, Journalism, Publishing, Accountancy

Person to contact ***mevans@csg.school***

Health and Social Care

In Health and Social Care you will learn about:

- The stages and patterns of human growth and expected development at each life stage
- Roles of professionals from the various sectors in health and social care
- Legislation in health and care settings
- Employment in health, social care and children and young people's workforce
- Factors influencing health and well-being

In Health and Social Care, you will study about:

- NHS Services
- Social Services
- Early Years Services
- Values of care in a range of settings including service providers and service users.
- Morals and Ethics in Social Work
- Equality and Diversity Within Healthcare
- Treatment of ill health and medical conditions in hospitals, health centres and in the community

You will learn by:

- Developing secure understanding of the different roles in Health, Social and Early Years care settings.
- Taking part in discussions to understand a range of topics and develop one's own values, opinions, and attitudes.
- Producing and presenting project work in collaboration with others in the class.
- Practical assessments

You will be assessed by:

- 1 external examination 'Essential values of care of use with individuals in care settings' & 2 internally marked written assignments.

Course specification and further information:

Exam board: OCR
Course title: Level 1/2 Certificate in Health and Social Care

Useful websites:

Course specification https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j801-j811/
https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/
https://www.candi.ac.uk/courses/?cat=522&sector=7
https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care

Where could Health and Social Care take you next?

The course is designed to equip learners with practical health and social care skills. This is an ideal qualification for those students who are considering one of the many careers in the Health and Social Care sector such as; Teaching, Social work, Nursing and Midwifery, Medical science, Health Care Assistant and Counsellor to name a few.

Person to contact dtoman@csg.school

History

In History you will learn about:

Germany 1918-39
In just twenty years, the German people experienced amazing and unforeseen change. Germany emerged in the 20s as one of the most modern democracies in the world. But by the 30s, she was in the grip of Nazi dictatorship. We examine the reasons behind these changes, the appeal of Adolf Hitler and the Nazis and what life was like for ordinary Germans in this period. Who resisted Hitler? Why were German Jews and other minorities persecuted?

Migration to Britain c800 to present
We examine the changing nature of migration to Britain from c800 up to the present day. This thematic study takes an overview of the continuity and change over this period examining the most important changes and the impact that they had. This study includes local analysis of Notting Hill 1948-1970.

Early Elizabethan England 1558-88
Elizabethan England was a time of a society violently fractured by religion, murderous plots and threat of foreign invasion. This topic looks in detail at the significance of the longest reigning, and arguably most successful, Tudor monarch Elizabeth and solutions to the problems in society. We also question this age as the 'age of exploration' considering the developments in attitudes, science and trade.

Superpower relations in the Cold War 1941-91
After the Second World War, two superpowers emerged in the world: the USA and Soviet Russia. How did they end up in a 'cold war' for the next thirty years? Who was to blame? How did this rivalry lead to a crisis in Cuba? How far did a cycle of repression and freedom characterise the East and West of Europe up to the dismantling of the Soviet Union in 1991.

You will learn by:
Reading historical works and the textbook. Discussing and debating historical questions. Writing extended responses to key questions.

You will be assessed by:
All topics are externally assessed at the end of year 11
Exam board: Edexcel

Where could History take you next?
Careers related to history include: journalism, law, politics, archaeology, museum work, diplomatic work, anthropology, genealogy, library work, diplomatic services, civil service, cultural heritage, publishing, teaching.

Person to contact ewroe@csg.school

Latin

In Latin you will learn about the language, literature and culture of Ancient Rome. The study of Latin helps students with the following:

- the study of vocabulary extends your knowledge of vocabulary in other languages
- the study of grammar helps with understanding the structures of all languages and develops logical skills, clear thinking and good communication
- the study of literature supports your work in English and helps you understand another culture in depth
- the study of Roman culture provides an understanding of ourselves - where many of our current ideas come from, and why our world looks like it does now.

You will learn by using the Cambridge Latin Course, as you have in Year 9. You will also learn by studying real Latin texts written by real Romans.

In **Year 10** you will develop your knowledge of vocabulary and grammar using the Cambridge Latin Course and other supporting material. A vocabulary list is provided for students to learn. We begin reading 'real' Latin: Roman literature in the form of a prose story by an author like Ovid or Suetonius.

In **Year 11**, you will consolidate your language work and begin to study some ancient literature and sources on the theme of Love and Marriage. You will learn about how the Romans viewed this fascinating topic; draw your own conclusions about Roman culture, and read and analyse a wide selection of original poetry and prose from some of the world's most influential and important writers: Virgil, Ovid, Martial, Horace...

You will be assessed through regular marked work on the language, and creative tasks related to the culture of the Romans. At the end of the course you will sit three exams.

1. **Latin Language (50%):** involves unseen translation, comprehension and some very simple sentences from English to Latin.
2. **Themed Literature (30%):** this focuses on a collection of set texts in Latin and English and cultural knowledge on the theme of Love and Marriage which we will read and study together in class.
3. **Narrative Literature (20%):** this focuses on a story in Latin which we will read and study together in class.

Course specification and further information: We study the Eduqas Latin GCSE.

Where could Latin take you next? Latin is very highly regarded by universities and employers as it demonstrates a logical mind and an openness to new ideas. It is three subjects in one - language, literature and historical study, so it prepares you with a wide variety of skills.

Some of the industries in which you find people who have studied Latin and Classics: Journalism, Politics, Linguistics & Translation, The Civil Service, Technology, The Foreign Office & diplomacy, Performing Arts, Social Sciences, Publishing, Medicine, Marketing, Law, International Relations, TV & Radio Production & Education.

Person to contact ***hmaguire@csg.school***

Music

In GCSE Music you will learn about:

Performing, composing and appraising music. You will study a wide range of musical styles, including classical instrumental music, music from films and stage musicals, musical fusions and vocal music.

You will focus on these prescribed works:
Music for a While - Purcell
Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 - J.S. Bach
Pathétique - Beethoven
Star Wars - John Williams
Samba em Preludio - Esperanza Spalding
Release - Afro Celt Sound System
Killer Queen - Queen
Defying Gravity from *Wicked* - Steven Schwartz

You will learn by:

- Studying musical works in detail - through creative practical tasks, as well as analysis and appraisal tasks.
- You will explore compositional techniques in order to create your own music in a variety of styles.
- You will give regular performances as a soloist and ensemble performer.

You will be assessed by:

- Two performances, worth 30% of the final grade.
- Two compositions, worth 30% of the final grade.
- A listening and writing exam lasting one hour 45 minutes, worth 40% of the final grade.

Course specification and further information:
Pearson Edexcel GCSE Music, syllabus code 1MU0

Useful websites:
https://qualifications.pearson.com/
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

Where could GCSE Music take you next?
Music is both a creative and academic subject and the GCSE course develops critical thinking and analytical skills, and practical musical skills.
GCSE Music provides an excellent preparation for further study in subjects such as A Level Music and other post-16 music courses, as well as musical study at university or conservatoire.

Person to contact egordon@csg.school

Physical Education

What will I learn about?

In PE you will learn about how the human body creates movement, and factors that can influence the way in which the body moves. You will learn about the factors affecting participation and performance in sport and physical activity, know how and why people get involved in sport, and understand why it is important to lead a healthy, active lifestyle. You will learn how to relate these factors to your chosen physical activities, and show an understanding of their application in a range of sports.

In the practical element of the course, you will further develop your skills in Trampolining and perform routines, and also develop your skills and strategic awareness in Netball and Basketball. If you participate in a sport outside of school that is on the AQA list of sports, you may be assessed in that instead.

How will I learn?

In your double theory lessons you will learn by developing an understanding of the structure of the human body, how it moves, and how we can improve physical performance both in sport, and everyday life. You will also develop an understanding of the role sport psychology, sociology, technology and socio-economic factors can play in how much we participate in, and how well we perform in sport. These lessons involve discussions, drawing on personal experience and debating the issues surrounding sport and the way it is perceived.

In your double practical lessons, you will learn the skills required for Trampolining, Basketball and Netball, and how to apply them effectively to competitive situations. For Trampolining this is in the form of a routine, and Basketball and Netball in the form of matches.

Assessment

You will be formally assessed through two written exams at the end of Year 11 to assess the theory element. The practical element is assessed throughout the course, with video evidence collated at the end of each unit. A final practical assessment takes place in the Spring term of Year 11, with a combination of live performances and video evidence being presented to an AQA examiner.

The course breakdown and weighting is as follows:

- Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport (30%)
- Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and wellbeing in physical activity and sport (30%)
- Written coursework (10%), Trampolining* (10%), Netball* (10%), Basketball* (10%)

*These sports can be substituted for any others on the AQA specification, provided you have a combination of team and individual sports.

Course specification and further information:

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/pe/specifications/AQA-8582-SP-2016.PDF

Where could PE take you next?

Given the breadth of topics covered in this GCSE, students can go on to study related A levels and degrees in PE, Biology, Physics, Psychology, Sociology, Ethics and more. It can also provide a strong foundation for careers in the sports industry, physiotherapy, medicine, healthcare, policy management and education amongst others.

Person to contact

adevine@csg.school

Sociology

What will I learn about?

Have you ever considered why we associate pink with girls? Or why certain groups are more likely to join gangs or be involved in crime? Why do we in society choose to live in family groups? Why do most people abide by the law?

Sociology is the study of society. In lessons, there will be discussions of key sociological studies and concepts using examples from the present day.

Assessment
Paper 1 - The sociology of families and education

This paper looks at two key topics in detail, going through key sociological studies and theory and making links to contemporary society. The topic on the family discusses the function of the family, different forms of family, roles and relationships within families and criticisms of families by sociologists. The topic on education discusses the role and function of education, education and capitalism as well as the nature of schooling and achievement. Family and education paper - also involves knowledge and application of research methods (as described in crime and deviance/ social stratification topic).

Paper 2 - The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

This paper covers two further topics through sociological studies and perspectives with lots of links to debates in contemporary society. The topic on crime and deviance covers the social construction of crime, social control, criminal and deviant behaviour as well as data on crime. The topic on social stratification approaches the topic through the following theoretical approaches; functionalism and Marxism as well as discussions on power, class and life chances. This paper also includes a section on sociological research methods.

Paper 1 and Paper 2 are equally weighted (both papers are worth 50% of total grade).

GCSE Sociology 100% exam (in the summer of year 11)

Exam board: AQA

Person to contact ewroe@csg.school

Technical Award in the Study of Hair & Beauty

The VTCT Level 1/2 Technical Award in the Study of Hair and Beauty is a technical award equivalent to a full GCSE. It is aimed at learners who have an interest in developing a broad understanding of the hairdressing and beauty therapy sector and related industries, including retail, leisure, manufacturing and other personal care services.

You will learn how to:

- explore design skills and techniques used within the hair and beauty sector to develop skills in planning
- carry out research and present design brief ideas
- explore the business aspect of the hair and beauty sector and have the opportunity to investigate the principles of marketing and how entrepreneurship supports the hair and beauty sector, including how to select and design promotional activities and materials
- explore the business aspect of the hair and beauty sector, the broad related industries and understand the aspirational career opportunities available

You will learn by:

- Personal development and critical reflection
- The ability to interpret, analyse and apply knowledge
- Organisation, planning and research skills
- Innovation and creativity
- Reasoning skills
- Problem solving

You will be assessed by:

The Award consists of three mandatory units:

1. Business and entrepreneurship in the hair and beauty sector
2. Anatomy, physiology and cosmetic science
3. Design in the hair and beauty sector

The three units are not individually assessed – learners will need to achieve a pass in both an external written exam and a synoptic written assignment – the marks for these will be added together and the total mark will determine the level and grade of achievement; this will ensure a wide range of abilities is recognised and rewarded.

Course specification and further information:

Exam board: VTCT https://www.vtct.org.uk/technical-award-hair-and-beauty
The qualification may also be useful to those seeking to progress to qualifications in the following sectors/industries:

• Complementary and alternative therapies
• Spa therapy
• Fashion and photography
• Retail – cosmetic and fashion
• Theatre and media
• Travel and tourism
• Sport and active leisure

Person to contact nonwuagha@csg.school

Academic Support

Overview

The transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 is both an exciting and challenging experience for most students. Studying for GCSE exams increases your workload and sometimes can increase the pressure on you to complete both classwork and homework. It is essential to complete work to the best of your ability so that you are able to move on to study A levels or other post 16 courses and begin a pathway towards your career goals.

This option will offer students the opportunity to have support for the core subjects; Maths, English and Science. You will receive extra support from all departments to enable you to complete the courses successfully and aim for the highest grade possible. In your lessons you will be supported by a teacher and study to back up the work you have been completing in class and at home.

Person to contact dtoman@csg.school

Notes: