



KS4 PROSPECTUS

THE CHALFONTS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2019-2022

CONTENTS

Introduction	4
English Language	5
English Literature	5
Mathematics	6
Combined Science	7
Individual Sciences	8
Art / Digital Art	9
Business Studies	10
Certificate in Digital Applications	11
Computer Science	12
Dance	13
Design & Technology	14
Drama.....	15
Engineering	16
Food Preparation & Nutrition	17
French / German / Spanish.....	18
Geography	19
(Introduction to) Hair & Beauty.....	20
History	21
Hospitality & Catering.....	22
Media Studies.....	23
Music.....	24
Religious Studies	25
(BTEC First Award in) Sport	26

INTRODUCTION

At The Chalfonts Community College, we offer an exciting curriculum to prepare you for the ever changing world in which we live, work and play.

The curriculum is made up from a core curriculum that seeks to give you a solid foundation, preparing you for continued study after GCSEs.

This is supported by a broad range of option subjects that fit with your interests, as well as helping to develop you as a rounded individual.

Core Subjects

All students will study the following 'core' subjects at GCSE level:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Single Sciences (Sets 1-2)
- Combined Science (Sets 3-5)

All students are expected to study at least one Ebacc subject from:

- Geography
- History
- French
- German
- Spanish

It is also compulsory that all students have lessons in Physical Education.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) will continue to be provided during tutor time.

Option Subjects

The subjects on offer to you represent a diverse range of knowledge and skills and can lead to a wide range of career paths.

The subjects on offer are:

- Art / Digital Art
- Business Studies
- Computing (Maths Sets 1-3)
- Dance*
- Drama
- Engineering (Level 2 Certificate)*
- Food Preparation & Nutrition (Science Sets 1-3)*
- Food and Catering (Level 2 Certificate)*
- Introduction to the Hair & Beauty Sector (Level 1 Certificate)*
- Certificate in Digital Applications (Level 2 Certificate)
- Media Studies
- Music*
- Product Design*
- Religious Studies
- BTEC Sport*

*Courses will only run where student numbers are viable. Some subjects have limited places due to staffing, health and safety, and curriculum requirements. More information can be found on individual subject pages.

Please choose subjects because you are interested in and enjoy them; and they will support your 6th form/career plan.

Do not choose subjects because your friends are choosing them; because of who teaches the subject; you think they will be easy options; or because of parental/teacher pressure.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

AQA

English Language is a compulsory GCSE and will enhance your reading and writing skills. The course will develop your literacy skills to ensure you can read fluently and write effectively. You will cover a range of texts and styles from 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, broadening your understanding and appreciation of literature and literary non-fiction, as well as other writing such as reviews. In addition to this, you will also extend your ability to discuss, present and communicate – which are vital skills to have in the future.

Course Structure

The course is 100% examination based. You will sit two exams, each exam is 1hr and 45 minutes long and you will complete four reading responses and two writing tasks in each exam. Your first exam will test your ability to respond to a piece of literature fiction and develop your skills in descriptive writing. Your second exam will test your ability to respond to a non-fiction text and develop your skills in writing to present a viewpoint. You will also receive a certificate in Spoken Language, which does not form part of your English Language final result.

Where does it lead?

English Language is a crucial GCSE because all employers, universities and colleges will ask you about this result. Having an English Language GCSE means that you are good at communicating and have good skills of interpretation which are crucial skills to have in life. GCSE English Language is a solid foundation for courses in journalism, media and languages, as well as many others.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

AQA

English Literature is a compulsory GCSE at The Chalfonts Community College. It will develop your skills of analysis and interpretation and you will be encouraged to consider the interpretation of others when looking at the texts. You will be taught the skills to analyse poetry and prose so you can independently learn to look for hidden meanings in texts or learn to link them to their social, historical, cultural or moral setting.

Course Structure

The course is 100% examination based. You will sit two exams, one of which is 1hr and 45mins and assesses you on drama and prose; the other is 2hrs and 15mins and assesses you on modern texts and poetry. You will study a variety of texts in preparation for your exam such as ‘The Tempest’ by William Shakespeare and ‘Lord of the Flies’ by William Golding.

Where does it lead?

English Literature is an academic GCSE and is respected and highly regarded by all employers, universities and colleges. Having an English Literature GCSE shows that you have developed your skills of interpreting and can look beyond the surface for understanding. You will also have been taught to present your ideas in a sophisticated way and you will be encouraged to be aware of your written expression and how this can shape other’s understanding of you. GCSE English Literature is a great qualification to have. Not only will it encourage you to read widely for pleasure, it can help you enter into careers in journalism, publishing, broadcasting and many more.

MATHEMATICS

AQA

Mathematics is a compulsory GCSE. The course extends the mathematics you have learnt in Key Stage 3 including number, algebra, shape and data handling. There is an increased emphasis on applications and functionality.

Our aim in this course is to ensure that you leave equipped with Mathematical skills you need to succeed in Further Education or employment.

You will:

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

Course Structure

The course culminates in three equally weighted examinations. There is no controlled assessment or coursework.

- Paper 1: Calculator
- Paper 2: Non-Calculator
- Paper 3: Calculator

Where does it lead?

The GCSE Mathematics course will ensure that you have the numeracy skills required to tackle the Mathematics we encounter in life. It is often an essential requirement for many jobs and Further Education Courses.

Students achieving a Grade 7 or better can continue directly into A-Level Mathematic and/or Further Mathematics.

COMBINED SCIENCE

AQA

Combined Science (Trilogy) is a compulsory GCSE for students in Sets 3-5. The course covers a diverse range of topics related to Biology, Physics and Chemistry including:

Biology

- Natural selection and genetics
- Ecosystems and material cycles
- Health and development in medicines
- Cells, plant structure and ecosystems

Chemistry

- The periodic table
- Separating and purifying substances
- Energy and chemical reactions
- Earth and atmospheric science

Physics

- Motion, forces and energy
- Light and the electromagnetic spectrum
- Astronomy
- Electricity and circuits

Course Structure

The course is 100% Examination with two papers per scientific discipline:

- Biology 1 and Biology 2 (33.3%)
- Chemistry 1 and Chemistry 2 (33.3%)
- Physics 1 and Physics 2 (33.3%)

Each paper has a mixture of assessment styles including multiple choice questions, short answer questions and more open extended responses.

Where does it lead?

Students who achieve a grade 7/7 or better in Combined Science can advance to studying one or more Sciences at A-Level.

Students who achieve a grade 6/6 can advance to BTEC Science or other Level 2 and Level 3 courses at college.

The study of Science can eventually lead to a wide range of careers including research, medicine, veterinary science and engineering.

INDIVIDUAL SCIENCES

AQA

Each course explores each scientific discipline in greater depth than Combined Science and offers more advanced preparation for the study of Science at A-Level.

Each course cover a wide range of topics, including:

Biology

- Genetics, natural selection and modification
- Health, disease and development in medicines
- Ecosystems and material cycles
- Animal coordination, control and homeostasis
- Plant structures and their functions

Chemistry

- States of matter
- Reactions and equilibria
- Quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Dynamic equilibria and calculations involving volumes of gases
- Energy and chemical reactions

Physics

- Motion and forces
- Matter and energy
- Light and the electromagnetic spectrum
- Astronomy
- Electricity and circuits

Course Structure

The course is 100% Examination with two papers per scientific discipline:

Biology 1 and Biology 2 (33.3%)

Chemistry 1 and Chemistry 2 (33.3%)

Physics 1 and Physics 2 (33.3%)

Each paper has a mixture of assessment styles including multiple choice questions, short answer questions and more open extended responses.

Where does it lead?

Students achieve three separate Science GCSEs: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. To advance to study any of the three sciences you must achieve a grade 7 or better.

Students who achieve a grade 6 or better can advance to BTEC Science or other Level 2 and Level 3 courses at college.

The study of Science can eventually lead to a wide range of careers including scientific research, medicine, veterinary science and engineering.

ART / DIGITAL ART

Pearson Edexcel

Art and Design and Digital Art are hugely creative subjects which encourage students to express their ideas through a variety of different art disciplines.

Art and Design takes the form of more traditional based skills like, painting in acrylic, water colour, drawing, sculpture in clay, wire and mod roc plaster, various printing techniques and photography although students will also produce some digital based work too.

Students will be supported in generating their own personal ideas and making connections with artists and designers.

Students who opt for Digital Art will follow a course similar to Art and Design but will be making Art using Computer Software and lens based media.

Students will develop photography skills to generate ideas and use Adobe Photoshop as well as other packages to create manipulated original images and collages.

Students will learn to make animations and other moving pieces of Art work with software such as Adobe Flash.

Course Structure

Art and Design and Digital Art are both 60% Coursework and 40% Examination.

Everything that students work on throughout Year 10 and Year 11 will go toward their total GCSE grade. This includes all class work and homework.

Students will complete three projects in Year 10 and one main project in Year 11 and a smaller project just before they start their exam preparation. They will complete a mock exam in Year 10 and another in Year 11 to prepare them

for their final exam and also to create fantastic pieces of well developed work.

The examinations last for 10 hours, and will be sat over two days.

Where does it lead?

There are a huge array of courses and careers that a GCSE in Art and Design or Digital Art can lead to. This includes an A-Level in a related subject or other Level 3 courses. This can then be followed by a degree and eventually a career in Advertising, Animation, Fashion and Textiles, Graphic Design, Set and Scenery Design, Illustration, Fine Art, or Film and Television.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Pearson Edexcel

Students will apply knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. Students will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour and apply knowledge & understanding to business decision making looking at:

- the interdependent nature of business activity, influences on business, business operations, finance, marketing and human resources, and how these interdependencies underpin business decision making
- how different business contexts affect business decisions
- the use and limitation of quantitative and qualitative data in making business decisions.

Students will draw on knowledge and understanding to:

- use business terminology to identify and explain business activity
- apply business concepts to familiar and unfamiliar contexts
- develop problem solving and decision making skills relevant to business
- investigate, analyse and evaluate business opportunities and issues
- make justified decisions using both qualitative and quantitative data including its selection, interpretation, analysis and evaluation, and the application of appropriate quantitative skills.

Course Structure

The course is divided into two themes which are equally weighted. Both themes culminate in 90 minute externally set examinations.

Theme 1: Investigating small business

- Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity
- Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice
- Topic 1.4 Making the business effective
- Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business

Theme 2: Building a business

- Topic 2.1 Growing the business
- Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions
- Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions
- Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions
- Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions

The use of Maths is integral to success on the course. Students will be expected to make calculations in a business context, including:

- averages/ percentages and percentage changes
- revenue, costs and profit
- gross profit margin and net profit margin ratios
- average rate of return
- cash-flow forecasts, including total costs, total revenue and net cash flow

Where does it lead?

The knowledge of how a business works will be helpful for every job. It is useful if you want to be an entrepreneur and set up your own business or if you would like to work in a wide variety of careers such as Advertising, Accountancy, Stock Broker, Recruitment, Events Management etc.

GCSE Business will lead on to A Levels and also a link for a variety of degrees at university, such as Law, Accountancy, Economics, Finance, Management, and international Business.

CERTIFICATE IN DIGITAL APPLICATIONS

OCR

This Level 2 qualification, part of the Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia, will equip learners with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. Through the use of these skills, learners will ultimately be creating fit-for-purpose creative media products.

Course Structure

R081: Pre-production skills (1h15m exam)

This unit will enable learners to understand pre-production skills used in the creative and digital media sector. It will develop their understanding of the client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques that form part of the planning and creation process.

R082: Creating digital graphics (10 hours centre assessed tasks)

The aim of this unit is for learners to understand the basics of digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector. They will learn where and why digital graphics are used and what techniques are involved in their creation. This unit will develop learners' understanding of the client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques as part of the planning and creation process.

R087: Creating interactive multimedia products (10 hours centre assessed tasks)

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. It

will enable them to interpret a client brief, and to use time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques as part of the planning and creation process when creating an interactive multimedia product.

R092: Developing digital games (10 hours centre assessed tasks)

This unit will enable learners to understand the basics of creating digital games and their environments for the creative and digital media sector. It will enable learners to create a playable game from an existing design or brief. It will enable them to interpret a client brief, and to use time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques as part of the planning and creation process when creating a digital game.

Where does it lead?

Completion of this award to Level 2 (GCSE equivalence) will mean that you could continue onto any Level 3 qualification in IT, including A-Level ICT and related subjects such as Media Studies and Creative Arts. There is also natural progression into Level 3 BTEC Certificates and/or Diplomas in IT or other related courses. Either of these routes open up opportunities to enter into Higher Education and a future career in the IT and Creative/Media Arts professions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

OCR

This carefully planned course gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works.

It offers an insight into what goes on ‘behind the scenes’, including computer programming, which many students find absorbing. You will:

- Develop an understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work
- Look at the use of algorithms in computer programs
- Become independent and discerning users of IT
- Develop computer programs to solve problems

Evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs and the impact of computer technology in society

Computing is a great way to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to further learning and to everyday life.

Course Structure

Unit 1: Computer Systems (1h 30m exam)

This component will introduce learners to the Central Processing Unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system 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 (1h 30m exam)

This component incorporates and builds on the knowledge and understanding gained in Component 01, encouraging learners to apply this knowledge and understanding using computational thinking. Learners will be

introduced to algorithms and programming, learning about programming techniques, how to produce robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of computing languages and data representation. Learners will become familiar with computing related mathematics.

Programming Project (20 hours, no assessment)

Learners will be required to complete a 20 hours programming project where they can apply their skills from the first two units. Although this is not assessed it's a great opportunity for students to follow the software lifecycle to understand how programs are created in the real world.

Where does it lead?

You will gain an in-depth knowledge of the basics of computing which will enable you to pursue a career or educational path in computer science or programming.

It will also benefit those looking to advance into a Science, Further Maths, Technology or Engineering vocation.

Important Information:

Both Unit 2 and the Programming Project require a competent level of Mathematical skill. As such, we require students to be in Maths Sets 1-3 to participate in this course.

DANCE

AQA

GCSE Dance involves students exploring the world of contemporary dance. Students will take part in solo and group practical workshops where they will explore set professional choreography and also create their own practical work.

Students will study professional work in preparation for a written exam where they will consider how Dance is created and understand the health and safety requirements of Dance. Students should have some experience of Dance and be prepared to develop a strong understanding of the language of Dance.

Course Structure

The course is made up of two components:

Unit 1: Performance and Choreography

Students will work on the following areas and assessments:

- Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration)
- Duet/trio performance (three and a half minutes in duration)
- Solo or group choreography – a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes)

This unit contributes 60% of the GCSE.

Unit 2: Dance Appreciation

This unit comprises a written exam where students are asked a range of questions about two professional Dances.

The unit assess their:

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills
- Critical appreciation of their own work
- Critical appreciation of professional works.

This unit contributes 40% of the GCSE.

Where does it lead?

Students could consider progressing to A-Level Dance or Performance Arts - where Dance could play a key part of the course. You will have gained a strong knowledge of the language of Dance - and will also be in a position to consider a BTEC National in Performing and Creative Arts.

Important Information:

The GCSE Dance course is physically demanding. It demands a high level of commitment due to the rigorous nature of the practical coursework element. Previous experience with dance is not required but would be beneficial. As such, all students who opt to take Dance at GCSE will be required to complete an audition before being accepted on to the course.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

AQA

Students with an interest in design, who enjoy practical lessons and are interested in working with a range of materials, would be well suited to taking this course.

This course involves the designing and making of products in a range of workshop materials, including textiles, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, timber-based materials, ceramics and plastics.

A vast variety of production techniques are taught from working with modern smart materials and computer aided design to more traditional wood and metal work.

Wherever possible, theory work is taught through practical activity but often classroom theory lessons are required. Moreover, much of the learning is project-based.

Learning about the properties of materials and different industrial production techniques is important preparation for the written examination at the end of Year 11.

Course Structure

Product Design consists of two units.

Unit 1: Written Examination

This unit comprises 50% of the total GCSE and will test your knowledge of both design and production practices, as well as the properties of materials.

Unit 2: Design and Making Practice

The other 50% is made up of controlled assessment (a practical product and a folder of work recording the design process followed in its construction).

Where does it lead?

This course will enable you to progress to A Level Product Design whilst also enabling you to demonstrate many of the skills required for access to apprenticeships and more vocational college courses.

Many of the areas explored will give you a good grounding in the skills used in engineering as well as more creative courses in further education.

Important Information:

Groups are kept to a maximum size of 22 students per class due to the size of the classrooms and health and safety requirements.

DRAMA

OCR

GCSE Drama is a combination of practical Drama workshops, two performance exams and a written exam.

You will develop a wide range of exploring and performing skills. You need to have the confidence to want to “perform” in front of an audience, but also be able to listen to other people’s ideas.

Most sessions will be practical based – developing your acting skills and learning about how to consider the audience in creating and devising performance ideas. It is an excellent opportunity to learn about working as a team, starting from a blank canvas and achieving live deadlines.

Course Structure

The Course consists of three units:

Unit 1: Devising

- Create and develop a devised piece from stimulus given by the exam board
- Performance of this devised piece or design realisation for this performance.
- Analyse and evaluate the devising process and performance.
- Performer or designer routes available.

This unit is coursework-based and comprises of a written/audio/video-based portfolio as well as a devised practical performance.

It counts as 30% of the GCSE.

Unit 2: Performance from Text

- You will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a selected performance text.

This unit is also coursework-based and comprises 30% of the GCSE.

Unit 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

This is a written examination. It covers:

- Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text
- Live theatre evaluation

This unit comprises the final 40% of the GCSE.

Where does it lead?

The course can lead to further study in Drama or Performing Arts – but is recognised for its transferable skills in working as a team, leadership, creating according to a strict deadline, thinking on your feet, communicating to an audience and starting from a blank canvas.

ENGINEERING

EAL

The 'First Certificate in Engineering Technology' is a Level 2 qualification that provides a firm foundation in 'Mechanical Engineering, design and manufacture' linking with a variety of industrial contexts. Students carry out a range of engineering activities to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge to access the high marks in the qualification and are able to approach a Level 3 qualification or an apprenticeship.

The course is taught as a series of overlapping but discrete projects allowing the students to 'realise' tangible and memorable outcomes. Each project is rooted in engineering contexts such as the automotive or aviation industries. Although there are no entry requirements for this qualification, students should be aware that this is a rigorous qualification requiring skill and application of knowledge to high engineering standards.

Course Structure

There is a combination of internally controlled assessment pieces. There is an exam which covers all aspects of the three mandatory units and finally there is a synoptic assessment for the certificate.

- Unit 1: Engineering environment awareness
- Unit 2: Engineering techniques
- Unit 3: Engineering principles
- Unit 17: Fitting and assembly

Each of the above units contribute to the Certificate. They are all assessed through both controlled assessment and written examination.

Where does this lead?

The qualifications are ideal for students considering apprenticeship with an employer or training organisation. They are also suitable for A level study or other level 3 course at Chalfonts or another local college. It also provides strong support for Physics and Maths at both GCSE and A-Level.

Important Information:

Groups are kept to a maximum size of 18 students per class due to the size of the engineering workspace and health and safety requirements.

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

AQA

This course requires a high level of commitment throughout the three years if a student is to be successful.

Like all other GCSEs, Food Preparation and Nutrition places a high emphasis on good standards of literacy and numeracy. Students need to be able to write fluently, plan in detail for practicals and to be able to evaluate their own performance using technical vocabulary.

The course allows students to demonstrate their creativity when making food products as well as to gain an understanding of:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

Moreover, students develop their creativity, with making food products a vital feature of their experience of taking this specification.

This two unit specification requires students to develop their application of knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning, producing products and evaluating them.

Course Structure

Unit 1 - Food Preparation and Nutrition

This unit is theory based and culminates in an externally assessed exam. It contributes 50% of the GCSE and includes a combination of multiple choice and extended-answer questions.

Unit 2 – Food investigation and Food Preparation

This part of the course is coursework-based and contributes 50% of the GCSE.

It is broken down into two assessments and is internally assessed.

Task 1: Food investigation

You will demonstrate your understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients in a written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Task 2: Food preparation assessment

You will demonstrate your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.

You will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved. This will be presented as either a written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

Where does it lead?

A whole variety of qualifications within the food industries, from a BSC in Culinary Arts, City and Guilds qualifications, a range of NVQs or a BTEC in Hospitality and Catering.

Important Information:

Unit 1 requires a competent level of scientific knowledge and skill. As such we require students to be in Science Sets 1-3 to participate in this course.

Groups are kept to a maximum size of 18 students per class due to the size of the food classrooms and health and safety requirements.

FRENCH / GERMAN / SPANISH

Pearson Edexcel

The syllabus is based on real-life situations allowing natural progression in the acquisition of vocabulary and usage. The aim is to enable the student to communicate. This involves listening, speaking, reading and writing with understanding. Students cover three themes:

- Identity and Culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Course Structure

Paper 1 - Listening

This is a written examination comprising 25% of the final GCSE.

Unit 2 - Speaking

This unit is 'Controlled Assessment' comprising 25% of the final GCSE. The assessment includes both photo card and role play exercises.

Unit 3 - Reading

This is a written examination comprising 25% of the final GCSE.

Unit 4 - Writing

This is also a written examination comprising 25% of the final GCSE.

Where does it lead?

All students have the choice to continue with French or Spanish which they have been studying since Year 7. The ability to speak a second language is not only useful but is advantageous in today's world.

Some Universities highly value Modern Foreign Languages at GCSE. Learning a language fits well with any subject and it broadens your horizons. Having a language qualification on your CV makes you more desirable to an employer in today's global economy.

A languages qualification can lead to a career in many diverse areas such as the Law, Business, Management, Film, Computing, Engineering, Travel and Tourism,

Criminology and many more, not just translating and teaching!

Important Information:

GCSE German: This course can be studied either 'in-addition' to French and Spanish or in 'instead' of them.

If you are interested in studying German, you will be required to discuss this with a member of the languages department. This is to ensure that you are capable of picking up a new language and completing the course successfully within three years.

GEOGRAPHY

Pearson Edexcel

The GCSE course offers a vibrant, relevant and exciting curriculum, considering both physical and human geography

Students explore a wide range of topics including: OS and Atlas map skills, environmental challenges, ecosystems, environmental threats; population, migration and other human geographical factors.

Course Structure

The GCSE course is linear and will be assessed in three written examinations.

Paper 1: Global Geographical Issues

This unit focuses on global issues, including:

- The hazardous Earth
- Development dynamics
- The challenges of an urbanising world

The paper is 1 hour 30 minutes and contributes 37.5% of overall GCSE grade.

Paper 2: UK Geographical Issues

This unit focusses on UK geography, including:

- The UK's evolving physical landscape
- The UK's evolving human landscape
- Geographical Investigations (including filed work)

This paper is also 1 hour 30 minutes and contributes 37.5% of overall GCSE grade

Paper 3: People and Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions

This unit focusses on:

- People and the biosphere
- Forests under threat
- Consuming energy resources
- Making a geographical decision

This paper is also 1 hour 30 minutes and contributes 25% of overall GCSE grade.

Where does it lead?

Geography is a current and topical subject. It is highly regarded by Universities and employers as it will enable you to develop a range of skills from collecting and analysing data to decision making. It will provide you with a stepping stone to study a wide range of subjects or open up the opportunity for a multitude of jobs. It will not restrict your opportunities but broaden them.

(INTRODUCTION TO) HAIR & BEAUTY

VTCT

The qualification is a Level 1 Vocational Certificate. It acts as a good introduction to working in the hair or beauty industry. The qualification aims to provide you with:

- An introduction to the hairdressing and beauty therapy industries and the skills required to work in them, helping you decide whether this is the right career for you
- Knowledge and skills in beauty therapy that will build confidence and provide a good foundation for further study on a professional level course offered post 16
- The skills to perform beauty treatments and to assist in the salon

Course Structure

The course is comprised of three separate qualifications which build on each other over the course of year 10 and 11:

The 'Award in an Introduction to the Hair and Beauty Sector' is made up of three units:

- Unit UV30330 - Introduction to the hair and beauty sector
- Unit UV30331 - Presenting a professional image in the salon
- Unit UV10416 – Provide a Basic Manicure Treatment

Students who successfully complete these units continue on to complete the 'Certificate in an Introduction to the Hair and Beauty Sector' A further two units are studied:

- Unit UV10417 – Provide Basic Pedicure Treatment
- Unit UV30333 - Nail Art application

Students who successfully complete the certificate can continue to the 'Diploma in an Introduction to the Hair and Beauty Sector'. A further seven units are studied:

- Unit UV30335 - Skincare
- Unit UV30339 - Make up application
- Unit UV20400 - Head Massage
- Unit UV10481 - Salon Reception Duties
- Unit UV10482 - Create Retail Displays
- Unit UV10478 – Working with others in the Hair & Beauty Sector
- Unit UV10477 - Health & Safety in the Salon

The qualifications are achieved via successful completion of all units for each stage of the different levels of qualification, through practical assessments in the salon and written assignment work, there are no written exams.

Where does it lead?

Successful students can progress into full time NVQ Level 2 & 3 Beauty Therapy in the 6th Form, or begin an apprenticeship in the Hair and Beauty sector.

Important Information:

Places on this course are very limited. The course is run in a 'live' salon and students will be working with members of the public. As such any student selecting this course as an option will be interviewed by a Beauty teacher to evaluate their eligibility to take the course.

HISTORY

Pearson Edexcel

The course will develop and extend your knowledge and understanding of specified key events, periods and societies in local, British, and wider world history; and of the wide diversity of human experience.

You will engage in historical inquiry to develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers. Encourage you to ask relevant questions and to investigate historical events critically.

You will study both UK History and that of Europe or the wider world across different time periods.

Course Structure

The course is made up of three written examinations.

Paper 1: Thematic Study and Historic Environment

This paper focuses on Crime and Punishment c1000 - Present Day; Whitechapel and Jack the Ripper.

It is comprised of a series of short and long answer questions. This paper comprises 30% of the final GCSE.

Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study

This paper focuses on the American West c1835 - c1895 and Norman Britain.

The paper is comprised of a mixture of short and long answer questions testing your ability to analyse and interpret sources. This paper comprises 40% of the final GCSE.

Paper 3: Modern Depth Study

This paper focuses on Germany 1918- 1939. Questions will focus on one topic, again testing your ability to analyse and interpret a range of sources.

It comprises 30% of the final GCSE.

Where does it lead?

Apart from enjoying the course and being a lot more aware of the world around you, GCSE History is a solid basis for many A-Level subjects. Students who have done well in history often study higher qualifications in subjects such as Politics, Law, Economics, and Sociology, along with History itself.

History also goes well with subjects such as English and Languages, all of which are analytical in nature.

Many people working in Law and Accountancy have studied History because of the skills that can be developed in reasoning and arguing your point. There are also many areas more directly related to History, such as Travel and Tourism, Museums, the Media Industry, Libraries, Government Research, Academic Research and, of course, History Teaching.

Universities and companies look favourably on History due to the skill set it provides. This rewarding subject develops a good foundation for students who wish to take it further or for those who wish to apply the skills learnt to other areas.

HOSPITALITY & CATERING

WJEC

This qualification is a Level 2 Vocational Award. It is designed for learners with an interest in food and cookery. It will provide learners with experience of using different cooking methods to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will give them a basic understanding of the skills required for a career in food.

Lessons will include:

- A balance of practical cooking and development/written work

You will learn about:

- The function of foods in recipes (food science) and in the body (nutrition)
- A knowledge of the sources of ingredients and foods including the environmental influence
- All aspects of diet, food needs and health
- A thorough understanding and application of food hygiene and safety
- Develop and apply a wide range of practical cookery skills, using appropriate equipment to meet specific needs

Over the duration of the course you will cook a wide range of dishes: main meals, vegetable dishes, pastries, cakes, sauces, dishes for special diets, starters, desserts etc.

It is expected that students will cook most weeks in order to develop their practical skills and to produce a wide range of high quality dishes. It is important to note that this course has a heavy written content to go alongside the practical cooking.

Course Structure

Unit 1 – Preparing to Cook

- Weighting – 25%
- Portfolio of evidence; notes, diagrams, annotated photos, witness statements, reports.
- Internally assessed & externally moderated

Unit 2 – Understanding Food Sources

- Weighting – 25%
- Portfolio of evidence; notes, diagrams, annotated photos, witness statements, reports.
- Internally assessed & externally moderated

Unit 3 – Exploring Balanced Diets

- Weighting – 25%
- A written, externally assessed examination – 25%
- Time: 2hours

Unit 4 – Plan & produce dishes in response to a brief

- Weighting – 25%
- Portfolio of evidence; notes, diagrams, annotated photos, witness statements, reports.
- Internally assessed & externally moderated

Where does it lead?

Like the GCSE, students who achieve the Level 2 Award, can continue on to a variety of qualifications within the food industries, from a BSC in Culinary Arts, City and Guilds qualifications, a range of NVQs or a BTEC in Hospitality and Catering.

Important Information:

Groups are kept to a maximum size of 18 students per class due to the size of the food classrooms and health and safety requirements.

MEDIA STUDIES

WJEC

GCSE Media Studies is an exciting and engaging course that seeks to develop your literacy and communication skills. You will study a wide range of media texts from the following media industries: advertising, news, magazine, film and television, music video and social media.

The course encourages students to engage with media both in terms of their understanding but also the practical application of industry skills. This includes the use of Adobe Photoshop for image manipulation and Adobe InDesign for desktop publishing

The course focuses on four key areas:

- media language
- media representations
- media institutions
- media audiences

Course Structure

The course is 30% controlled assessment and 70% examination. The units are as follows:

Unit 1: Representations, Institutions and Audiences.

This unit is externally assessed and counts for 35% of the qualification. The assessment is broken up into short answer and extended responses, testing the students' knowledge of the three key media areas.

Unit 2: Media Language and Contexts.

This unit is externally assessed and counts for 35% of the qualification.

The assessment requires students to respond to a series of media products analysing the way media languages have been employed. Like Unit 1, there will

be a combination of short answer and extended responses.

Unit 3: Creating Media Products

This unit is internally assessed and counts for 30% of the qualification. Students respond to a given brief that will require them to apply their knowledge of all four key areas. They will have to research, plan and produce a media product (i.e. a music video or website) that is then evaluated.

Where does it lead?

Successful candidates can continue on to A-Level Media Studies or a wide range of BTEC qualifications in Media Production, Film, Animation or Design. Many students also go on to complete apprenticeships within the Media Industries and/or study a media-related course at University.

MUSIC

OCR

GCSE Music offers keen musicians and singers the opportunity to develop their musical skills further across the three areas of Listening, Performing and Composing. Through studying music from around the world, classical music, contemporary pop culture and Film music, students develop knowledge and skills to help them gain the confidence to express themselves musically both in Performing and Composing.

Course Structure

Performing (Coursework)

Performing is worth 30% of the GCSE. It consists of one solo and one ensemble performance, recorded. You will have termly assessments for this and your final and best recordings will be uploaded to the exam board in Year 11. You would be expected to have individual instrument/vocal lessons over the course with either one of our private teachers in school or your own outside of school, and to develop solo and band skills. All performances are recorded without an audience.

Composing (Coursework)

Composing is also worth 30% of the GCSE. Students are expected to complete two compositions over the course starting in Year 10. Students will learn important compositional skills through the Listening area of the course and through composition workshops. You will have access to state of the art recording equipment both in our recording studio, using Logic Pro and Garage Band on the Mac suite. Compositions will be converted into MP3s and put on Google Classroom for self-assessment.

Appraising (Written Examination)

Appraising is worth 40% of the GCSE. There are four Areas of Study (AoS). We start with Rhythms of the World including African music,

Bhangra and Indian classical music, Calypso and Samba as well as music from Greece, Israel and Palestine. Then you will study The Conventions Of Pop including Rock and Roll, Rock anthems, Pop Ballads and solo artist of today. Following that we study in year 11 Film and Video Game Music and the Concerto through time.

Where does it lead?

Students studying GCSE Music often continue into the sixth form where they take the RSL Subsidiary Diploma in Music, equivalent to 1.5 A Levels and some will continue studying music at university where they can study pop music, musical theatre, sound engineering, composing, and music production as well as doing degrees in individual instruments or singing.

Important Information:

The GCSE Music course requires that you play an instrument (includes singing) in order to be successful. This is due to the demanding nature of the coursework which requires both solo and group performance. As such, all students who opt to take Music at GCSE will be required to complete an audition before being accepted on to the course.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

AQA

GCSE Religious Education involves the study of a variety of moral issues relevant in today's world.

The course is broken up into two equally weighted units.

In the first unit, students explore the beliefs, teachings and practices from two religions in detail from:

- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Catholic Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Sikhism

In the second unit, students are required to take a thematic approach considering:

- religion's place with relation to life,
- relationships and the family;
- the existence of God and revelation;
- peace and conflict;
- crime and punishment;
- human rights and social justice.

They can also take a more textual approach considering:

St. Mark's Gospel, in terms of the life of Jesus and/or its relevance as a source of religious, moral and spiritual truths.

Course Structure

The course is 100% examination with two equally weighted papers.

Paper: 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices (50% of the GCSE).

Paper 2: Thematic Studies (50% of the GCSE).

Where does it lead?

GCSE Religious Education involves the development of a variety of skills which are useful for a wide range of subjects, including English, Philosophy and Ethics, and Humanities subjects.

The course includes modern day issues and provide students with the insight and skills to be successful in modern Britain, informing a wide range of future careers.

(BTEC FIRST AWARD IN) SPORT

Pearson Edexcel

The BTEC First Award in Sport focuses on giving the student a varied insight into the physiology, psychology and coaching elements of sport and fitness. This course is suitable for students that have a passion for sport, biology, and in developing their understanding of the theoretical background of physical activity.

The course covers the following areas:

- Fitness for Sport and Exercise
- Understanding Practical Performance in Sport
- Applying the Principles of Personal Training
- The Sports Performer in Action
- Leading Sports Activities
- The Mind and Sports Performance

Course Structure

Students will complete four compulsory units which includes one electronic written exam.

The majority of this course is theory based and there will be very few practical lessons. Students are not assessed on their practical ability in sport. There is a significant amount of IT used as part of the course, with students expected to type the majority of their work.

Assessment for this course will take place throughout Key Stage 4, with majority of the assessment being assignment based. Therefore the results achieved in any assignment will count towards the students' final grade. Students will also need to pass the compulsory exam to complete the course.

Where does it lead?

To continue gaining a greater depth of knowledge in sport and performance, you can choose to study the Level 3 BTEC Sport course at sixth form at The Chalfonts Community College, where we offer three BTEC Sport courses.

Qualifications in PE can lead to careers in; physiotherapy, sport science, sports nutrition, physical rehabilitation, recruitment, teaching and working with young people.

The Chalfonts Community College

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