



"Success is an Attitude"

The Chalfonts Community College

**KS4
PROSPECTUS**

2022

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:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Single Sciences / Combined Science

At the end of term 1, students will be set, sets 1-2 will study Single Sciences (Triple) and the remaining sets will study Combined Science (Trilogy).

ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

The Government strongly recommends that all students take a foreign language AND either History or Geography at GCSE Level. In line with this, we expect our students to study at least one of these subjects. Your son/daughter has been asked to think about which are the right subjects for him/her. Most universities prefer these subjects to have been studied at GCSE and A Level. We offer students four subject choices, so that they can take at least one EBacc subject.

EBacc Subjects:

- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE French
- GCSE German
- GCSE Spanish

All students follow core, non-examination courses in:

- Physical Education
- Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

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.

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:

- GCSE Art or Digital Art
- GCSE Business Studies
- GCSE Computer Science (Maths Sets 1-2)
- GCSE Dance
- GCSE Design & Technology
- GCSE Drama
- Engineering (Level 2 Certificate)
- GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition (Science Sets 1-3)
- Hospitality & Catering (Level 2 Certificate)
- Introduction to the Hair & Beauty Sector (Level 1 Certificate)
- IT (Cambridge National – Level 2)
- GCSE Media Studies
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Religious Studies
- Sport (Level 2 Certificate)

HOW THE FINAL CHOICES ARE DECIDED

Since we do not restrict students' choices by asking them to pick from prescribed pathways or option blocks, it is only once all the choices have been submitted that we organise the choices into groups for timetabling purposes.

Usually there are about 20 students who need to choose another option. This is done in consultation with your son/daughter and is the reason why we ask for two reserve choices. Please be aware that we will not run a course if too few students opt for it, and that we will ask teaching staff for their professional view as to suitability for a course.

We will spend time with every student to ensure that the options chosen are the right ones, so you will not hear until early May what the final subjects are. When a student is asked to use a reserve subject, we work hard with her or him to ensure that s/he is well supported and this is why this part of the process can take some time.

GCSE GRADING

The new GCSEs are now entirely terminally assessed. The 9 - 1 grading system will relate to A* - G in the following way:

Legacy GCSE Grades	New GCSE Grades	Vocational Qualifications	
A*	9	Distinction *	Level 2
	8		
A	7	Distinction	
	6		
B	5	Merit	
	4		
C		Pass	
D	3	Distinction	Level 1
	1	Pass	
U	U	Not Yet Achieved	

CAREERS

When considering GCSE options, it is often helpful to think ahead a little about jobs that might be of interest in the future, and we have introduced to all year 9 students 'Unifrog', (www.unifrog.com) a one stop-shop online careers tool to support you in doing this.

You may have recently completed the **Personality and Interests questionnaire** and, as a result of taking these tests, learnt more about yourself and explored the careers commonly associated with your closest personality types. Re-visit these tools and research in a little more detail the careers suggested. Are they roles you would be interested in? *Which subjects are they suggesting might be useful?*

Whilst your dream job is unlikely to specify the GCSEs you need, it might require a particular degree or A-level subject, and to get those, you might need certain subjects at GCSE. Obviously, it's unusual to know exactly what you want to be at this stage, so it's important to keep your options open (e.g. if there's any possibility you might want to be a doctor one day, then Biology and Chemistry GCSEs will be helpful!)

Unifrog's **Careers library** is made up of over 800 job profiles that you can search to learn about possible pathways ahead of you. You can find the Careers Library under 'Exploring pathways' on your Unifrog Home page. You can search the library using keywords, or by filtering by career area, subject, theme, and competency/skill. If you see a job that you like, you can 'favourite' it for future reference.

Once you have found the career path you are aiming for, you can read the profile, in particular looking at the section 'Related university subjects profiles.' If you click on any of these subjects in this list, it will take you to the relevant page in the Subjects library where you can find out more about what it would be like to study that subject.

Whatever you choose, you will be studying the subject for at least two years – so it's important you like it! You are also more likely to perform well and be motivated in subjects you enjoy studying. If you don't think you enjoy any subjects, think about the *type of studying* that you prefer. E.g. Even if you don't love Mathematics, you might prefer solving problems with exact answers to writing long creative essays.

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 Merchant of Venice' 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 (100%)

Chemistry 1 and Chemistry 2 (100%)

Physics 1 and Physics 2 (100%)

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.

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)

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 1-2 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 the process of researching, designing, developing and evaluating a product, and are interested in working with a range of materials, would be well suited to taking this course. This course is about the journey of designing a product rather than just being about the finished result. Only 10% of students' final mark is for practical work and lessons will reflect this.

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.

Primarily you will be learning about the properties of materials and different industrial production techniques. The variety of knowledge is vast, from working with modern smart materials and computer aided design and manufacturing, to more traditional wood and metal working practice.

The vast amount of theory knowledge is an important part of the course and will be taught throughout Year 9 and 10 in preparation for the written examination at the end of Year 11.

Course Structure

Design & Technology 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 25 page A3 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 20 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 which include Engineering Drawing and working with ferrous and non-ferrous metals 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. Although there are no entry requirements for this qualification, students should be aware that this is a rigorous qualification requiring skill, resilience, determination and application of knowledge to high engineering standards. Examples include high precision in the measuring and marking out of practical work, where you will be working to fine tolerances as small as 0.25mm. Once your material is marked out your cutting and filing needs to be accurate to your fine markings. Metal is a hard material which requires effort to manipulate into a desired shape. Orthographic drawings will need to be within 0.5mm of the given measurements.

Course Structure

There is a combination of internally controlled assessment pieces and an exam which covers all aspects of the four mandatory units. Finally there is a synoptic assessment which will help to grade your certificate a pass, merit or a distinction.

- 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. All five coursework units and exam need to be graded at a pass mark to pass the entire course.

Where does this lead?

The qualifications are ideal for students considering apprenticeship with an employer or training organisation. It is also suitable for A level study or other level 3 course at The Chalfonts or colleges.

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 two 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 practical's 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, German 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!

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

Issues

This unit focusses on UK geography, including:

- The UK's evolving physical landscape
- The UK's evolving human landscape
- Geographical Investigations (including field 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.

IT (CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL)

OCR

This qualification will enable you to learn about the different design tools that can be used, the principles of human computer interfaces and the use of data and testing when creating IT solutions or products. You will also understand the uses of Internet of Everything and the application of this in everyday life.

You will develop the skills to plan and design a spreadsheet solution to meet a client's requirements. You will be able to use a range of tools and techniques to create the spreadsheet solution which will be tested, and you will learn to evaluate your spreadsheet solution.

Finally, you will develop the knowledge and skills relating to the purpose, use and types of Augmented Reality (AR) in different contexts and how it is used on different digital devices. You will develop the skills to design, create, test and review an AR model prototype.

This will provide you with the learning for a range of IT related further study, important transferable skills and some basic industry knowledge and skills.

Course Structure

R050: IT in the digital world (exam)

In this unit you will learn the theoretical knowledge and understanding to apply design tools for applications, principles of human computer interfaces and the use of data and testing in different contexts when creating IT solutions or products. You will understand the uses of Internet of Everything and the application of this in everyday life, cyber-security and legislations related to the use of IT systems, and the different types of digital communications software, devices, and distribution channels.

R060: Data manipulation using spreadsheets

In this unit you will learn the skills to be able to plan and design a spreadsheet solution to meet client requirements. You will be able to use a range of tools and techniques to create a spreadsheet solution based on your design, which you will test. You will be able to evaluate your solution based on the user requirements.

R070: Using Augmented Reality to present information

In this unit you will learn the basics of Augmented Reality (AR) and the creation of a model prototype product to showcase how it can be used appropriately for a defined target audience to present information. You will also learn the purpose, use and types of AR in different contexts and how they are used on different digital devices. You will develop the skills to be able to design and create an AR model prototype, using a range of tools and techniques. You will also be able to test and review your AR model prototype

Where does it lead?

The knowledge and skills developed will help you to progress onto a range of academic, technical and applied post-16 study including:

- A-Level Computer Science
- Level 3 Technical and Applied General Qualifications, such as the Cambridge Technical in Information Technology
- Digital Apprenticeships, such as IT, Digital and Technology, Data Analyst

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.

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:

- Christianity
- Islam

In the second unit, students are required to take a thematic ethics study of the following:

- 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:

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.

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 both sport and biology, and for those seeking to develop their understanding of the theoretical aspects surrounding physical activity.

The course covers the following areas:

- Fitness for Sport and Exercise
- Practical Performance in Sport
- Applying the Principles of Personal Training
- Leading Sports Activities

Course Structure

Over 2 years students will complete four compulsory units. One of these units is a written, electronic exam, which is usually sat in Year 10.

The remaining majority of the course is theory and assignment based and as students are not assessed on their practical ability, there will be very few practical lessons.

Assessment for this course will take place throughout Key Stage 4. Three of the four units of work covered require the completion of 4/5 assignments per unit. Each unit is 25% of the overall grade therefore all results achieved in any assignment count towards the student's 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 one of three Level 3 BTEC Sport courses currently offer in The Chalfonts Community College 6th Form.

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



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