



**St James'**  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
A Specialist Humanities College

KEY STAGE 4  
CURRICULUM  
AND  
OPTIONS BOOKLET

CURRICULUM YEAR 10 September 2018 to July 2019  
CURRICULUM YEAR 11 September 2019 to July 2020

*Options evening: 7pm Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018*

*John 10:10 "I have come so they may have life and have it to the full"*



# THE COURSES OF STUDY IN YEARS 10 AND 11

## KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM INFORMATION

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The information contained in this document is designed to be helpful and informative for both pupils and parents.

A list of the courses available in the Key Stage 4 Curriculum at St James' Catholic High School is provided for information, however all pupils will be given further detailed advice and guidance in school as they prepare to select courses for study at Key Stage 4.

It is important to note that it may not be possible for all OPTION subjects listed to be delivered in year 10 and 11 as this is dependent on a number of factors including uptake of courses.

Please also bear in mind that on rare occasions some pupils may not be able to study the exact combination of courses they would wish to in year 10 and 11 due to the popularity and oversubscription of some subjects, however when possible, we will endeavour to successfully match pupils to their preferred courses and subjects. (Further details on how option subjects are allocated are described later in this booklet)

### CORE SUBJECTS:

The following subjects make up the core curriculum at St James' Catholic High School and the vast majority of students will study **all** of the following subjects:

English

Mathematics

Religious Studies

Science

Physical Education

Schools also have an obligation to provide Careers Education, Citizenship Studies, Computing Studies, and Sex and Relationship Education; and these will be delivered through a rotational arrangement within the modular PSHCE programme. (The rotation of these subjects will be taught for 1 lesson a fortnight)

## OPTION SUBJECTS

Students will select three courses from the list below to study in year 10 and 11

### **The Faculty of Expressive Arts offers:**

Art and Design (GCSE)

Drama (GCSE)

Music (GCSE)

### **The Faculty of Humanities offers:**

Geography (GCSE)

History (GCSE)

### **The Faculty of ICT offers:**

Business (GCSE)

Computer Science (GCSE)

Creative Media Production (Btec Tech Award)

Travel and Tourism (Btec Tech Award)

ICT Digital Information Technology (Btec Tech Award)

### **The Faculty of Technology offers:**

Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)

Design and Technology: Textiles (GCSE)

Design and Technology: Resistant Materials (GCSE)

*NOTE: Due to the structure of the course students can't study **both** Textiles **and** Resistant Materials*

### **The Faculty of Physical Education offers:**

Physical Education (GCSE)

### **The Faculty of Science offers:**

Triple Science (GCSE)

### **The Faculty of Modern Foreign Languages offers:**

Modern Foreign Language (German) (GCSE)

Modern Foreign Language (French) (GCSE)

## Option Lessons

When students have selected their option preferences the timetable for year 10 is constructed. Creating the timetable **after the options process** allows as many students as possible to study their first preferences however sometimes a situation develops where certain combinations of courses can't be studied by a small number of students.

Option subjects are taught in three blocks on the timetable.

**Option Block A (All lessons in different subjects taught at the same time)**

**Option Block B (All lessons in different subjects taught at the same time)**

**Option Block C (All lessons in different subjects taught at the same time)**

To illustrate the options process it might be useful to look at an imaginary **example** of three possible option blocks at a **different smaller school**.

<b>Option Block A subjects</b>	<b>Option Block B subjects</b>	<b>Option Block C subjects</b>
Fishing	Fishing	Fishing
Handwriting	Economics	Latin
Woodwork	Spanish	Photography

In the above example as Fishing was a popular subject selected by many students it was placed in all three option blocks meaning that it could be studied with any other course.

However if a student had picked **Handwriting, Woodwork and Photography** because **Handwriting and Woodwork** are placed in the same option block and taught at the same time they could not both be studied by the student, this student would then need to be allocated a different subject from option B, (which would be one of their reserve choices).

Until the students have chosen their options it is impossible to provide details of subjects that it might not be possible to study together, however overleaf is a list of the number of classes that have traditionally been offered within the timetable.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Traditionally the number of classes that have been available on the timetable</b>
Art and Design	2
Drama	1
Music	1
Geography	2/3
History	2/3
Business	2
ICT	2
Computer Science	1
Creative Digital Media Production	1
Food Preparation and Nutrition	1
Design and Technology: Textiles	1
Design and Technology: Resistant Materials	1
Physical Education	1 (but split into 3 groups with 3 teachers)
Triple Science	2
Modern Foreign Language (German) (GCSE)	6
Modern Foreign Language (French) (GCSE)	6

If a subject only offers one class it does not mean you should be reluctant to select it as an option because you are concerned it might clash with another course. In the imaginary example of option blocks on the previous page, a student could pick **Woodwork, Economics and Latin** that are all subjects that only offer only one class each, yet a student could happily study all three of these subjects as they are all in different option blocks.

## Selecting Options

Through the options process you will be allocated three option subjects to study in Year 10 and 11. **You need to choose SIX subjects in total, 3 first choice subjects and three reserve subjects.**

## Reserve choices

Reserve choices are very important as we may allocate students one or more of their reserve subjects if they can't be placed in their first choice subjects, this may happen in one or more of the following circumstances:

- 1) When too many students select a particular subject and there is not the capacity to create an additional class to accommodate the extra students.
- 2) When certain combinations of subjects become impossible to fit on the timetable for an individual student.
- 3) When a subject does not run at all because the numbers opting for it are just too small to allow a class to be created.

**The following pages of the booklet give a description of the style and content of all the subjects available at Key Stage 4**

## **Core subject: Mathematics**

### **What does the subject offer?**

The new GCSE Mathematics course now offers even greater levels of challenge and engagement for students. The volume of subject content has increased and the demand of that content has increased too. There is a greater emphasis on problem solving, mathematical reasoning and the requirement to memorise formulae. These changes are designed to help students emerge from GCSE Maths with a level of confidence and fluency that will provide a genuine foundation for the rest of their learning and working lives.

### **Course details:**

Pupils will follow the Edexcel 9-1 specification.

They will be entered at Higher or Foundation level. Pupils will not be awarded a letter grade (A\*-G) at the end of the course, instead a new grading structure is being introduced from grade 9 (the highest) to grade 1 (the lowest).

Higher tier will cover grades 9 to 4 and foundation tier will cover grades 5 to 1.

### **Course Content:**

Pupils will study a range of topics within the 5 main areas of Mathematics:

Number (15%), Algebra (30%), Ratio Proportion and Rates of Change (20%), Geometry and Measures (20%) and Statistics and Probability (15%)

## **Assessment**

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

The total time for the examinations has increased from 3.5 hours to 4.5 hours.

All the exams will be sat at the end of the course.

There are 3 exams, each is 1.5 hours long.

Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper,

Paper 2 and Paper 3 are calculator papers.

Each paper is equally weighted at 33.3% each

### **Internal Assessment (assessed in school and moderated by exam board)**

N/A

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs J Healey – Director of Faculty

## **Core Subject: Religious Education**

### **What does the subject offer?**

Religious Education at St James' has two main aims, the first is to create the time, space and conditions for each pupil to reflect personally on his or her own faith and to develop an understanding of the faith of others.

The second is to bring the pupil to additional or deeper knowledge and understanding of religion and in particular, Catholic Christianity and Judaism.

### **Course details:**

Pupils will study Eduqas Route B.

### **Course Content:**

The course is split into three components:

#### **Component 1**

37.5% Foundational Catholic Theology

Paper 1 – 90 minutes

1. Origins and Meaning
2. Good and Evil

#### **Component 2**

37.5% Applied Catholic Theology

Paper 2 – 90 minutes

1. Life and Death
2. Sin and Forgiveness

#### **Component 3**

25% Study of Judaism

Paper 3 – 60mins

1. Beliefs and Teachings
2. Practices

There will be four types of questions:

- (a) A simple definition, a keyword
- (b) A description, recalling knowledge on the faith.
- (c) An explanation, for example of a religious belief or how religious beliefs affect the lives of followers.
- (d) Evaluation and analysis.

### **External Assessment:**

The course is linear so all three exams will be at the end of Year 11. There is no controlled assessment.

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs R Wheelan –Director of Faculty

## **Core Subject: Combined Science**

### **What does the subject offer?**

The majority of pupils will study Combined Science over the course of year 10 and 11, however a number of pupils may opt to study triple science. Pupils will cover elements of Biology, Physics and Chemistry in lessons and this will lead to the award of **two** GCSEs in **Combined Science** at the end of **year 11**.

### **Course details:**

AQA Combined Science Specification code: 8464

### **Course Content:**

#### **Biology**

1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology

#### **Chemistry**

8. Atomic structure and the periodic table 9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 10. Quantitative chemistry 11. Chemical changes 12. Energy changes 13. The rate and extent of chemical change 14. Organic chemistry 15. Chemical analysis 16. Chemistry of the atmosphere 17. Using resources

#### **Physics**

18. Forces 19. Energy 20. Waves 21. Electricity 22. Magnetism and electromagnetism 23. Particle model of matter 24. Atomic structure

### **Assessment:**

#### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

Pupils will take six examinations (2 Biology papers, 2 Chemistry paper and 2 Physics papers) at the end of year 11; each paper is one hour 15 minutes in duration and worth 70 marks. The terminal exams will account for 100% of the final grade (16.7% for each exam). The types of questions are multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response and there will be a foundation and higher tier.

All Science GCSEs will now be examined in the summer examination series of year 11.

#### **Internal Assessment**

There will be no controlled internal assessment for the new Science GCSEs. However, throughout year 10 and 11 students will complete a number of required experiments during lesson time which they may be tested on in their exam papers.

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

*Mrs C Brown – Director of Faculty*

## **Core Subject: English Language and English Literature**

### **What does the subject offer?**

All pupils will study AQA GCSE English Language and AQA GCSE English Literature. These courses will result in **two** GCSE grades being awarded. **It is expected** that students will study English Literature during year 10 and English Language during Year 11. All exams for English Literature will be completed at the end of year 10 and exams for English Language will be sat at the end of year 11.

### **Course details:**

- 1) English Language AQA Specification 8700
- 2) English Literature AQA Specification 8702

In both GCSE English qualifications students will receive a Grade from 9-1 rather than a letter grade from A\*-G. They will receive a numerical grade for English Literature and another numerical grade for English Language. 9 is the highest grade and 1 is the lowest grade.

## **English Language Assessment**

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

#### Paper 1 Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

1 hour 45 Minutes worth 80 marks and 50% of the GCSE

#### Paper 2 Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

1 hour 45 minutes worth 80 marks and 50% of the GCSE

### **Internal Assessment (assessed in school)**

Spoken Language Assessment

Marked by teacher and reported separately on GCSE results certificate

## **English Literature Assessment**

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

#### Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> –Century Novel

1 hour 45 Minutes worth 64 marks and 40% of the GCSE

#### Paper 2 Modern Texts and Poetry

2 hour 15 minutes worth 96 marks and 60% of the GCSE

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

*Mrs K Gill – Acting Director of Faculty*

## **Option Subject: Art and Design – Fine Art (GCSE)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

This is an exciting, creative pathway that has a large practical element. It will equip you with a vast range of practical skills, whilst developing your confidence and experience of working in a wide variety of materials, processes and techniques; for example, drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, textile design and mixed media. Students will be introduced to the Art of others through their own research, galleries and visiting artists. GCSE Art & Design is essential if you are considering any creative career.

**Course details:** GCSE Fine Art - specification number: 8202

### **Course Content:**

**'Portfolio' (Component 1)** All Art coursework produced in class and for homework over the 2 year course, amounts to a minimum of 2 projects. For this, pupils are required to: draw and collect information, research an artist or movement, explore and develop ideas and produce a final outcome for each project.

**'External Assignment (Component 2)** is set in January of Yr 11 and completed in March. Pupils are given a choice of inspiring starting points, which they choose from a test paper set by the examining board. They will choose one theme to explore fully which inspires them. There is unlimited preparation time for this task. Students are required to produce their own unaided piece of work in 10 hours of supervised time. Candidates must respond to all the required assessment objectives.

The Portfolio and Externally Set Assignment are exhibited together at the end of the course to celebrate the pupils' achievements. This will be assessed internally and checked by an external moderator.

By the end of this course you will have a portfolio of work to take to interview at college.

## **Assessment**

**THERE IS NO WRITTEN EXAM,**  
however annotation must be evidenced in Component 1 & Component 2

### **Internal Assessment (assessed in school and moderated by exam board)**

#### **Component 1: Portfolio**

Controlled Assessment – set and marked by centre and moderated by AQA.

**Worth 60% of GCSE**

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

#### **Component 2: Externally set assignment**

Question papers issued from 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Marked by centre and moderated by AQA.

**Worth 40% of GCSE**

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs C Malins – *Director of Faculty*

## **Option Subject: Drama (GCSE)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

This practical Drama course offers a wide forum to illustrate the candidates' acting ability. Students learn through workshops that are based on improvisation and scripted text, throughout the course, pupils are assessed on their responses, evaluative comments, practical contribution and analytical skills.

### **Course details:**

GCSE Drama: Specification code: 1 DRO (Full details can be found at [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk))

### **Course Content:**

Pupils are expected to explore Drama techniques, such as hot-seating, cross-cutting and marking the moment and will develop the ability to write up their findings. They will have the opportunity to attend the theatre and enjoy many different genres of dramatic performance.

### **Assessment:**

The GCSE (graded 9-1) in Drama consists of two coursework components and one externally examined paper.

#### **Component 1: Devising** (Coursework: 40% of the qualification).

##### ***Content overview***

- Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus (free choice for centre)
- Performance of this devised piece
- Analyse and evaluate the devising process and performance.

##### ***Assessment overview***

There are two parts to the assessment:

- A portfolio covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of this process and a devised performance

#### **Component 2: Performance from Text** (Coursework: 20% of the qualification)

- Students will perform two key extracts from a performance text.

#### **Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice** (Exam: 1 hour 30 min) (40% of the qualification)

##### ***Content overview***

- Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text.
- Live Theatre evaluation- free choice of production.

##### ***Assessment overview***

##### ***Section A: Bringing Texts to Life***

- This section consists of one question broken into six parts (short and extended responses) based on one extract from the chosen performance text.

##### ***Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation***

- This section consists of two questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen.

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs H Grainger

## **Option Subject: Music (GCSE)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

The course provides the opportunity for pupils to develop their enjoyment of music and to enhance their skills within the subject. GCSE Music is available to all pupils who enjoy performing, composing and listening to music.

**Course details:** AQA GCSE Music 8271

### **Course Content:**

There are 3 main strands of study

#### **1. Understanding music**

#### **2. Performing music**

#### **3. Composing music**

Within these strands Music technology is fully integrated, and many areas of study have artists or composers who have written works in this format. Students can perform and compose using technology.

## **Assessment**

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

#### **Component 1: Understanding Music**

(40% of GCSE) – Written Exam paper in July of year 11

The exam is 1 hour 30 Minutes in duration

The exam paper has listening exercises and written questions using excerpts of familiar and unfamiliar music

#### **Component 2: Performing Music**

(30% of GCSE) Pupils must perform for a minimum duration of 4 minutes in total, a minimum of 1 minute must also be devoted to the ensemble performance.

Performance 1 - Solo Performance (36 Marks)

Performance 2 - Ensemble Performance (36 Marks)

*Pupils will be provided with instrumental tuition if they choose to have instrument lessons in school.*

### **Internal Assessment (assessed in school and moderated by exam board)**

#### **Component 3: Composing Music**

(30% of GCSE)

Composition 1 – Composition to a brief (36 Marks)

Composition 2 – Free Composition (36 Marks)

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs E Keenan

## **Option Subject: Geography (GCSE)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

Geography offers a unique insight into the natural world. The department has a highly dedicated staff team that delivers outstanding results that are significantly above the national average.

In 2015, 64% of students achieved A\* or A grades, 95% A\*-C grades and 100% achieved A\*-E grades. From September the new GCSE specifications will implement the new grades 9-1.

**Course details:** The course is the new specification of AQA GCSE Geography – Code 8035

### **Course Content:**

Course Details and Content:

This course is split into 3 Papers:

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment (35% of marks):

- Challenges of Natural Hazards: Tectonic Hazards; Weather and Climate.
- Physical Landscapes in the UK: 2 of 3 from Coast, Rivers, Glacial.
- Living World: Ecosystems and Tropical Rainforest; Hot Deserts or Cold Environments.

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (35% of marks):

- Urban Issues and Challenges
- Changing Economic World
- Resource Management (with focus on Food, Water or Energy)

Paper 3: Geographical Application (30% of marks):

- Evaluation of a particular issue
- Fieldwork (human and physical including interaction)

## **Assessment**

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment -- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment -- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 3: Geographical Application -- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes

A change from September 2016 for students studying Geography is that there is no longer a coursework component. However the course will involve and include both the River Bollin trip from Year 9 and a residential trip to the Lake District in Year 10. These visits will enable pupils to utilise the skills which are tested in Paper 3, the Geographical Application, worth 30% of the final grade.

The department also offers extra-curricular bi-annual trips to Iceland, Paris and the annual ski trip. These activities benefit pupils' understanding and experience. However, they are not obligatory.

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mr K Wilby – *Director of Faculty*

## **Option Subject: History (GCSE)**

### **Course details**

HISTORY – AQA

Specification code: 8145

QAN code: 601/8217/9

### **Course Content:**

The new GCSE specification combines the most popular topics from existing specifications as well as some new exciting ones. It builds on the skills and topics at Key Stage 3, and will help develop essential skills for further study. Pupils will follow one thematic study; one period study; two depth studies (One British and one European/wider world) and the study of a historic environment.

### **Assessment:**

This specification is designed to be taken over two years, with two examinations at the end of year 11. There is no longer any controlled assessment.

### **Paper 1: Understanding the modern world**

Section A: Period studies

1B Germany, 1890 – 1945: Democracy and dictatorship

Section B: Wider world depth studies

Conflict and tension, 1918 – 1939

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minute, 84 marks (including four marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar) - 50% of the GCSE.

### **Paper 2: Shaping the nation**

Section A: Thematic studies

2A Britain: Health and people c1000 to the present day

Section B: British depth studies including the historic environment

Elizabethan England c1568 – 1603 (The study of a historic environment will focus on Hardwick Hall for the 2018 examination).

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 84 marks (including four marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar) - 50% of the GCSE.

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs L Birch (Head of History)

## **Options Subject: Business (GCSE)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

GCSE Business offers pupils the opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work. The units that are studied provide opportunities to explore theories and concepts by relating to events in the real world. GCSE Business also gives pupils an understanding of the world around them and equips with important knowledge that is required beyond school. The knowledge and skills gained from this specification will provide the pupils with a firm foundation for further study in a variety of different areas.

**Course details:** AQA GCSE Business – 8132

### **Course Content:**

#### **COMPONENT 1**

Business in the real world  
Influences on business  
Business operations  
Human resources

#### **COMPONENT 2**

Business in the real world  
Influences on business  
Marketing  
Finance

## **Assessment**

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

#### **Paper 1**

Written exam: 1 hour 45 mins  
90 marks available  
50% of GCSE

#### **Paper 2**

Written exam: 1 hour 45 mins  
90 marks available  
50% of GCSE

Section A includes multiple choice and short answer questions

Section B includes one case study/data response with a range of questions

Section C includes one case study with a range of question types including a 15 mark question.

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs C Linford

## **Option Subject: Computer Science (GCSE)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

GCSE Computer Science is a fairly new course offered at St James'. Students will be working with real-world, practical programming techniques that give them a good understanding of what makes computers system and wider technology work. Computer technology continues to advance rapidly, and the way that it is consumed has also been changing at a fast pace over recent years. The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded; as such students studying this specification will learn how to:

Create applications that run on mobile devices.

Create pages/applications that operate in a web enabled environment.

Create simple computer programs (including games).

It is an interesting and varied course that has been developed collaboratively with teachers, industry and the wider computer science community. GCSE Computer Science has built-in progression to further studies and is recognised as developing the skills that employer's value.

**Course details:** AQA GCSE Computer Science (8502)

### **Course Content**

The qualification is split into two components:

**Component 1 - Practical programming** - examined by controlled assessment.

**Component 2 - Computing fundamentals** - exam based

Just some of the topics that pupils will study (as part of both components) will include Networking, Computer Systems, Hardware, Data Compression, Binary Representation, Programming, Memory and the Use of Computer Technology in Society.

## **Assessment**

### **Internal Assessment (assessed in school and moderated by exam board)**

#### **Component 1 – Practical Programming**

Working independently students demonstrate their ability to code a solution to a given problem. It is expected that pupils spend around **20 hours** of guided time on their controlled assessment (portfolio) – 1 tasks, 20 hours, worth **20%** of the GCSE award.

Each student will complete a task from a choice of four. The tasks will be set in engaging and relevant contexts, e.g. gaming, web and/or mobile phone applications.

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

#### **Component 2 – Computing Fundamentals**

The **90 minute exam** at the end of the course is un-tiered and externally assessed, worth **80%** of the GCSE award. It will be available on either a paper-based or an on-screen version.

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs D Rarity – *Director of Faculty*

## **Option Subject: Creative Media Production (BTEC TECH Award)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

Creative Media Production is designed to inspire and enthuse learners who are considering a career in the creative media industries. It will give learners the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge, and develop skills, across the creative media sectors, e.g. planning and pitching a digital media product, moving images and website design.

### **Course details:**

**Qualification title:** BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Creative Media Production

**Qualification Number (QN):** 603/1238/5

### **Course Content:**

The qualification is the same size and level as a GCSE. It is aimed at those who may be interested in pursuing a career in creative media production. The qualification helps you to explore the sector by undertaking practical media projects.

On this course, you will:

- investigate different media products, such as audio/moving image, publishing and interactive design, considering their style, design, audience, and context
- explore creative media production processes and practices by generating ideas, and planning production and post-production processes
- develop digital media production skills and techniques.

## **Assessment**

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

There is one external assessment during which students will need to create an original Media Product in response to a brief/problem provided by the exam board.

The external assessment takes the form of a set task under supervised conditions that is then marked by the exam board. Students are permitted to re-sit the external assessment once during their programme by taking a new assessment.

The external assessment contributes 40 per cent of the marks available for the course.

### **Internal Assessment (assessed in school and moderated by exam board)**

Two units are internally assessed within school, they are:

- 1 Exploring Media Products
- 2 Developing Digital Media Production Skills

To complete these two modules students will produce assignments (portfolios) that will be based on assignment briefs that are relevant and engaging. As they progress through their assignments students will receive feedback which will allow them to achieve as highly as possible.

The two internal assessments comprise 60% of the marks available for the course.

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mr M Bulfin

## **Option Subject: Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

This course allows pupils to extend their food skills and gain a greater understanding of the working properties of a wide range of ingredients. Pupils will spend a large amount of their time learning through practical sessions with theory being taught alongside.

### **Course details:**

Course Title: Food Preparation and Nutrition AQA 8585

### **Course Content:**

This is a two year course that is split between focussed practical activities and mini projects before completing the controlled assessment. Pupils will gain knowledge of the following food areas:

- Food Nutrition and Health
- Food Science
- Food Safety
- Food Choice
- Food Provenance

## **Assessment**

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

The 1 hour 45 minute exam at the end of the course is un-tiered and worth 50% of the GCSE award. The paper will test the students' knowledge of food preparation and nutrition.

### **Internal Assessment (assessed in school and moderated by exam board)**

#### **Task 1: Food investigation (30 marks)**

This section focuses on students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.

Assessment - Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

#### **Task 2: Food preparation assessment (70 marks)**

This section focuses on students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.

Students 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.

Assessment: Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs V Bickerton

## Option Subjects: Design and Technology Textiles (GCSE)

### What does the subject offer?

It provides opportunities to understand the working properties of materials and commercial and industrial practices within the fashion industry.

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

### Course details:

AQA Design and Technology (8552)

There is one tier of assessment covering grades 9-1. This course has 50% non-exam assessment and 50% written paper.

### Course Content:

**Year 10:** September – March: pupils will develop both technical and freehand drawing/shading techniques and practical skills, using specifically fabrics and wood. During this time, pupils will be set a mini design projects and they will be expected to demonstrate the level of practical knowledge and competence that they have acquired.

**Year 11:** From September in Year 11 pupils will have approximately a third of their non-exam assessment design folder completed and will have started their practical element

## Assessment

<b>Paper 1 Exam 50%</b>	<b>Non-exam assessment (NEA) 50%</b>
<b>What's assessed</b> Core technical principles Specialist technical (Textiles) principles Designing and making principles	<b>What's assessed</b> Practical application of: Core technical principles Specialist technical principles Designing and making principles
<b>How it's assessed</b> Written exam: 2 hours 100 marks 50% of GCSE	<b>How it's assessed</b> Substantial design and make task Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours 100 marks 50% of GCSE

### Who can you contact to find out more?

Mrs C Williams

## **Option Subjects: Design and Technology Resistant Materials (GCSE)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

### **Course details:**

AQA Design and Technology (8552)

There is one tier of assessment covering grades 9-1. This course has 50% non-exam assessment and 50% written paper.

### **Course Content:**

**Year 10:** September – March: pupils will develop both technical and freehand drawing/shading techniques and practical skills, using specifically woods, metals, plastics and composite materials. During this time, pupils will be set a mini design projects and they will be expected to demonstrate the level of practical knowledge and competence that they have acquired.

**Year 11:** From September in Year 11 pupils will have approximately a third of their non-exam assessment design folder completed and will have started their practical element

## **Assessment**

<b>Paper 1 Exam 50%</b>	<b>Non-exam assessment (NEA) 50%</b>
<b>What's assessed</b> Core technical principles Specialist technical principles Designing and making principles	<b>What's assessed</b> Practical application of: Core technical principles Specialist technical principles Designing and making principles
<b>How it's assessed</b> Written exam: 2 hours 100 marks 50% of GCSE	<b>How it's assessed</b> Substantial design and make task Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours 100 marks 50% of GCSE

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mr M Brown

## **Option Subject: Physical Education (GCSE)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

The specification for GCSE PE has changed dramatically with the emphasis moving away from practical performance towards a higher level of knowledge and understanding of all theoretical aspects of Physical Education.

This new syllabus demands not only high levels practical ability over a range of activities but also a high level of scientific understanding.

**Course details:** GCSE PE EDEXCEL

### **Course Content:**

Out of the five timetabled lessons, 3 will be classroom based where students will undertake then theoretical aspects of the course with the remaining 2 used to improve sporting ability and to give students the chance to apply their knowledge to their practical performance. Students will receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, sport and sport science by developing an understanding of how the mind and body works in relation to performance in physical activity. The GCSE PE qualification leads onto A Level Physical Education, or supplies the necessary knowledge to access any sport related Vocational course.

### **Assessment:**

#### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

The Theoretical content is now worth 60% and assessed through 2 written examinations completed at the end of Year 11.

Exam 1- Fitness and Body Systems (1 hr 45) Applied anatomy and physiology, Movement analysis, physical training, Use of data.

Exam 2- Health and Performance (1hr 15) Health and fitness, sport psychology, Socio-cultural influences.

#### **Internal Assessment (assessed in school and moderated by exam board)**

Practical Performance is worth 30% of their final grade and is assessed via practical participation in 3 sporting activities regulated by external moderation. Candidates must complete both team and individual activities from a definitive list published by the DfE.

The final 10% is held in the completion of a detailed piece of coursework based around the designing, implementation and evaluation of a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP).

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mr I Walker – *Director of Faculty*

## **Option Subject: Triple Science (GCSE)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

Students who select this option will study science during core science lessons **and** as one of their option subjects. The selection of this option leads to the award of three GCSEs in the separate science subjects of **Chemistry, Physics and Biology**. This route is beneficial, but **not essential** for pupils wanting to study science at A-level

### **Course details:**

AQA exam board Specification codes: 8461, 8462, 8463

### **Course Content:**

The topics studied in the course are identical in name to those in Combined Science. However, the topics will be covered in more detail.

### **Biology**

1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology

### **Chemistry**

8. Atomic structure and the periodic table 9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 10. Quantitative chemistry 11. Chemical changes 12. Energy changes 13. The rate and extent of chemical change 14. Organic chemistry 15. Chemical analysis 16. Chemistry of the atmosphere 17. Using resources

### **Physics**

18. Forces 19. Energy 20. Waves 21. Electricity 22. Magnetism and electromagnetism 23. Particle model of matter 24. Atomic structure and 25. SPACE PHYSICS (EXCLUSIVE TO TRIPLE PHYSICS)

### **Assessment**

#### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

Each of the three Sciences is treated as a separate GCSE, with written external assessments. For each GCSE in each Science, there are two final papers worth 50% of the final grade awarded, per paper. Each paper will last for 1 hour 45 minutes and worth 100 marks. All of these exams will take place in the summer of year 11 and there will be a foundation and higher tier.

**Internal Assessment** There will be no controlled internal assessment for the new Science GCSEs. However, throughout year 10 and 11 students will complete a number of required experiments during lesson time which they may be tested on in their exam papers.

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

*Mrs C Brown –Director of Faculty*

## **Option Subject: German (GCSE)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

Studying a language not only allows students to develop their linguistic ability but it also helps their memory, creativity, listening skills and self-confidence. GCSE German builds upon languages skills from Years 7, 8 and 9, as well as learning more about the German people, countries and culture.

### **Course details:**

AQA GCSE German 8668

### **Course Content:**

Within the German GCSE course, students will cover a variety of topics which are categorised under three themes:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

These topics are all set within a context relevant to young people today.

## **Assessment**

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

Pupils are tested in all four language skills with all four papers being terminal exams sat in the external exam period in Y11. Each paper has an equal weighting of 25% and the skills are Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. GCSE German has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs C Pickles – *Director of Faculty*

## **Option Subject: French (GCSE)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

Studying a language not only allows students to develop their linguistic ability but it also helps their memory, creativity, listening skills and self-confidence. GCSE French is an exciting opportunity for students to become competent in the French language as well as learning more about the French people, countries and culture.

### **Course details:**

AQA GCSE French 8658

### **Course Content:**

Within the French GCSE course, students will cover a variety of topics which are categorised under three themes:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

These topics are all set within a context relevant to young people today.

## **Assessment**

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

Pupils are tested in all four language skills with all four papers being terminal exams sat in the external exam period in Y11. Each paper has an equal weighting of 25% and the skills are Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs C Pickles – *Director of Faculty*

## **Option Subject: Travel and Tourism (BTEC TECH Award)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

The BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism allows students to develop knowledge and technical skills by: exploring the aims of different travel and tourism organisations, the features of tourist destinations, how organisations meet customer requirements, and the influences on global travel and tourism.

### **Course details**

**Qualification title:** BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism

**Qualification Number (QN):** 603/3038/7

### **Course Content:**

The units to be studied are:

*Component 1: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations* - pupils will investigate travel and tourism organisations, their aims and how they work together. They will explore types of travel and tourism and the features that make destinations appealing to visitors.

*Component 2: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism* - pupils will investigate how organisations use market research to identify travel and tourism trends, and the factors influencing customer choice. They will apply their understanding by selecting products and services and planning a holiday to meet customer needs.

*Component 3: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism* – Learners will explore the different factors that may influence global travel and tourism, and how travel and tourism organisations and destinations respond to these factors. Learners will examine the potential impacts of tourism at global destinations and how destinations can manage the impacts of tourism and control tourism development to achieve sustainable tourism.

## **Assessment**

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

The BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism includes one externally assessed unit worth 40% of the final grade awarded. This will be *Component 3: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism*. It will be assessed through a two hour written examination.

### **Internal Assessment (assessed in school and moderated by exam board)**

The remaining 2 units are internally assessed, internal assessment enables learners to receive feedback on their progress throughout the course as they gather and provide evidence towards meeting the unit assessment criteria. Evidence for assessment may be generated through a range of diverse activities, including assignment and project work. Internal assessment will count for 60% of the final grade awarded.

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mr M Bulfin

## **Option Subject: ICT Digital Information Technology** **(BTEC TECH Award)**

### **What does the subject offer?**

The IT/Computing/digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK. Around 1.46 million people work in digital companies and there are around 45,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time. Digital skills span all industries, and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. The UK has positioned itself to be the 'Digital capital of Europe' as it continues to invest billions every year in digital skills and commerce. The modern world expects digital skills to be as important as English and Maths. Having both technical skills and business understanding is the key to success.

### **Course details:**

**Qualification title:** BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in ICT Digital Information Technology  
**Qualification Number** 603/2740/6

### **Course Content:**

In this qualification, you will develop important technical skills in data interpretation, data presentation and data protection. You will learn about Cybercrime, understanding the different types of threats and how to protect against them.

This qualification will enable you to use project-planning tools, models and techniques within an IT, computing and digital context.

Digital projects today often involve working with diverse teams across different locations. You will develop an understanding of what a virtual work environment is and how cloud technologies allow remote teams to work together more effectively.

## **Assessment**

### **External Assessment (assessed by exam board):**

Module: Effective Digital Working Practices

There is one external assessment which takes the form of a written examination taken under supervised conditions, the exam is 1 hour 30 minutes in duration.

The external assessment contributes 40 per cent of the marks available for the course.

### **Internal Assessment (assessed in school and moderated by exam board)**

Two units are internally assessed within school, they are:

- 1 Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques
- 2 Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

To complete these two modules students will produce assignments (portfolios) that will be based on assignment briefs that are relevant and engaging. Students will receive feedback as they progress through their assignments which will allow them to achieve as highly as possible.

The two internal assessments comprise 60% of the marks available for the course

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs D Rarity

## **CORE SUBJECT: PSHCE (not externally assessed)**

### **PSHCE at KS4**

All pupils at KS4 will take part in PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship, Economic) lessons. They will be given knowledge, skills and understanding that will enable them to lead confident, healthy and independent lives. PSHCE will enable pupils to take part in discussion and reflect on issues that may impact on them socially and personally. In addition, they will be given the opportunity to talk about social, moral and cultural issues.

### **Course content**

Lessons will cover the following topics:

- Careers
- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Sex and Relationships Education
- parliamentary democracy and the different electoral systems
- other systems and forms of government, both democratic and non-democratic
- local, regional and international governance and the UK's relationship with other countries
- human rights and international law
- the legal system in the UK,
- diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding
- the different ways in which a citizen can contribute to his or her community.
- income and expenditure, and financial matters

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs D Rarity – *Director of Faculty*

## **CORE SUBJECT: Physical Education (not externally assessed)**

In PE at key stage 4 we concentrate on extending performance gained in key stage 3 activities, allowing the students to demonstrate advanced levels of skill and understanding in our main activities. These include badminton and football for boys and hockey and netball for girls, who also experience other sporting activities such as football and rugby. All students participate in athletics in the summer term.

There is also an extensive health and fitness programme where students can access studio based exercise sessions, including Interval training, circuit training and Zumba. It is hoped that these students will maintain such activities once they have left St James'

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mr I Walker – *Director of Faculty*

## **CORE SUBJECT: Computing (not externally assessed)**

All pupils will study Computing in year 10 and 11 as part of a rotation/carousel arrangement with PSHCE lessons. They will be given the opportunity to develop their capability, creativity and knowledge in computer science, digital media and information technology.

Lessons will cover the following topics:

- Computer components including hardware and software
- The history of computing and the use of binary numbers
- Programming and computational thinking including design and problem solving
- Developments in technology, focusing on safety, online privacy and protecting their online identity

### **Who can you contact to find out more?**

Mrs D Rarity – *Director of Faculty*

## The New Style of GCSEs

To help guide you through Government changes to GCSEs over the past two years we have gathered together this brief information that highlights the main differences between the new and old GCSEs.

### The new GCSEs

#### What are the features of the new GCSEs?

1. A new grading scale of 9 to 1 will be used, with 9 being the top grade.
2. Assessment will be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
3. There will be new, more demanding content, which has been developed by government and the exam boards.
4. Courses will be designed for two years of study – they will no longer be divided into different modules and students will take all their exams in one period at the end of their course.
5. Exams can only be split into ‘foundation tier’ and ‘higher tier’ if one exam paper does not give all students the opportunity to show their knowledge and abilities.

#### How do the old GCSE grades link to the new GCSE grades?

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									
A*		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U

### Timeline of changes

<b>New GCSE to be taught from:</b>	<b>First results issued in:</b>	<b>Subjects</b>
September 2015 (current year 10)	Summer 2017	English language English literature mathematics
September 2016 (current year 9) <b>Taking options this year</b>	Summer 2018	ancient languages (classical Greek, Latin) art and design biology chemistry citizenship studies computer science dance double science drama food preparation and nutrition geography history modern foreign languages (French, German, Spanish) music physics physical education religious studies
September 2017 (current year 8) <b>Taking options next year</b>	Summer 2019	ancient history astronomy business classical civilisation design and technology economics electronics engineering film studies geology media studies psychology sociology statistics

