

The KS4 Journey

**Core
Learning**

**Personalised
Learning**

GROWING CONFIDENT LEADERS



Introduction

Central to our approach is the need to put students at the heart of all decisions. We aim to ensure that every student achieves more than they thought possible. We set these aims alongside a need to ensure that students experience a broad and balanced curriculum which gives them the skills, knowledge and understanding to take confident next steps into further education, training or the world of work.

The KS4 curriculum at EWS is designed to provide choice for students to pursue areas of talent and enjoyment, whilst recognising that students require core qualifications for their next steps.

Good decision making requires information. This booklet is designed to inform parents and students about the KS4 curriculum so that they can choose options and courses that best suit their needs and abilities. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact members of staff at school.

We look forward to working with you at this exciting and important stage of learning at EWS.



English Language GCSE

South: chris.mann@ewsacademy.org.uk

North: shazeen.robson@ewsacademy.org.uk

Course Content:

This course is taught alongside GCSE English Literature, but counts as a separate GCSE. The GCSE is divided into two papers:

Paper 1: Reading 20/21st century literature fiction and Descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2: Reading 19th, 20/21st century non-fiction texts and Writing to present a viewpoint

The qualification enables you to:

- Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas
- Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure
- Compare writers' ideas and perspectives across two texts
- Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references
- Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences
- Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation

How is this course assessed?

This course is designed to be taken over two years with all assessments taken at the end, under examination conditions. The final grade (1-9) will correspond with how well you perform in each of the following:

Paper 1 Section A: Reading – This Unit is worth 40 marks and involves students answering four questions.

Paper 1 Section B: Writing – This unit is worth 40 marks and involves students producing one response in detail.

Paper 2 Section A: Reading – This unit is worth 40 marks and involves students answering four questions.

Paper 2 Section B: Writing – This unit is worth 40 marks and involves students producing one response in detail.

Progression:

The GCSEs in English Language and English Literature prepare students with the type of skills needed in the work place as well as further and higher education. Students achieving Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language can progress to A Level English. These A Level courses (English Literature, English Language) are popular choices for students. Many students go on to study English at University; however, the qualifications are useful for a variety of courses.



Supporting Careers:

> Education > Journalism and Writing > Publishing > Media > Marketing

English Literature GCSE

South: chris.mann@ewsacademy.org.uk

North: shazeen.robson@ewsacademy.org.uk

Course Content:

This course is taught alongside GCSE English Language, but counts as a separate GCSE. The GCSE is divided into two papers:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the C19th novel – 40% of GCSE

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry – 60% of GCSE

The qualification enables you to:

- Develop your critical reading skills, supporting a viewpoint by referring to evidence in the text
- Explore aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings
- Analyse and evaluate the impact of style, language, structure and form in literary texts
- Understand writers' social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation and make an informed personal response
- Compare texts in relation to theme, characterisation, context and literary style.

How is this course assessed?

This course has all assessments taken at the end, under examination conditions. The final grade (1-9) will correspond with how well you perform in each of the following:

Paper 1 Section A: Shakespeare – This Unit is worth 34 marks and involves students answering one question in detail.

Paper 1 Section B: C19th novel – This unit is worth 30 marks and involves students answering one question in detail.

Paper 2 Section A: Modern texts – This unit is worth 34 marks and involves students answering one question in detail.

Paper 2 Section B: Poetry – This unit is worth 30 marks and involves students comparing two poems from the anthology.

Paper 2 Section C: Unseen Poetry – This unit is worth 32 marks and involves students responding to an unseen poem and then comparing this with another unseen poem.

Progression:

The GCSEs in English Language and English Literature prepare students with the type of skills needed in the work place as well as further and higher education. Students achieving Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Literature can progress to A Level English. These A Level courses (English Literature, English Language) are popular choices for students. Many students go on to study English at University; however, the qualifications are useful for a variety of courses.



Supporting Careers:

> Education > Journalism and Writing > Publishing > Media > Marketing

Maths GCSE

South: jessica.tait@ewsacademy.org.uk

North: lisa.storey@ewsacademy.org.uk

Course Content:

The new specification in maths GCSE is intended to

- develop confidence and competence with the defined mathematical content
- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods
- 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
- recall, select and apply mathematical formulae.

The content of our GCSE Mathematics specification has been grouped into topic areas: Number; Algebra; Ratio, proportion and rates of change; Geometry and measures, Probability; Statistics,

How is this course assessed?

The GCSE will be entirely assessed by written examination at the end of Year 11, which means no coursework will be required. There are 3 exam papers of 1 ½ hours each. This involves 1 Non Calculator paper and 2 Calculator papers.

Progression:

The course will be a continuation of study at KS3. Obtaining a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Maths will enable students to progress onto A-Level Maths. A Grade 5 or above in Maths will enable students to enter a wide range of courses at P16. If students do not achieve a Grade 5 or above in Maths at the end of Year 11, they will need to continue to study Maths in higher education or apprenticeship qualifications.



Supporting Careers:

> Medicine > Engineering > Forensic Pathology > Finance > Business > Consultancy > Teaching

Combined Science GCSE

North and South:

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Course Content:

All students will undertake either the combined science GCSE qualification or, for those students that display an exceptional ability in science, three separate science GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Both science courses span three years of study with core practicals that will be embedded throughout the course with examinations at the end of year 11.

Decisions on this pathway are made at the start of Year 11. Students will undertake a mathematical approach to scientific topics exploring magnification of organisms in biology, working out chemical formulas, and calculating work and power as they explore the physical sciences.

The course is broken down into units of study by topic within the three science disciplines of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

How is this course assessed?

Combined science and the three separate science qualifications are fully externally assessed through a series of six exams. Each exam is equally weighted for the qualification and include multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response styles of questioning.

Biology Paper 1 – Includes topics on cell Biology, organisation, infection and response and bioenergetics.

Biology Paper 2 – Includes topics on homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.

Chemistry Paper 1 – Includes topics on atomic structure and the periodic table; bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; quantitative chemistry; chemical changes; and energy changes.

Chemistry Paper 2 – Includes topics on the rate and extent of chemical change; organic chemistry; chemical analysis; chemistry of the atmosphere; and using resources.

Physics Paper 1 – Includes topics on energy; electricity; particle model of matter; and atomic structure.

Physics Paper 2 – Includes topics on forces; waves; and magnetism and electromagnetism

Those studying in the separate science pathway will also sit these six exams but they are longer in length with 50% weighting on each to make up the three qualifications.

Progression:

Students studying the Combined Science or Separate Sciences will be able to progress onto the A - Level courses in Biology, Physics and Chemistry if they achieve a Grade 6 or above. The qualification will also enable students to progress onto a wide variety of vocational science related courses.

Supporting Careers:

>Chemist>Astronaut>Ecologist>Forensic Scientist>Biologist>Psychologist
>Engineer>Doctor>Vet>Pharmacist>Meteorologist>Geneticist>Healthcare Professional>Sport Scientist



Art and Design GCSE

North and South: elaine.hedges@ewsacademy.org.uk

Course Content:

The course will encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to art and design. Successful students should demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary art and design practice, and be able to produce artwork that embraces a range of ideas. Students develop a personal, creative and imaginative approach to art and design.

The topics include:

Over a series of exciting and challenging projects you will be taught how to look at materials creatively and how to create visual solutions for a variety of exciting topics from a range of disciplines including:

- 2D and 3D drawing techniques
- Sculpture • Graphics • Painting
- Mixed Media • Design • Ceramics
- Printmaking • Photoshop

How is this course assessed?

The GCSE comprises of two components as follows:

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio in Art and Design is worth 60%

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment component worth 40%

Progression:

With a good pass in Art you can progress on to one of our successful 'A' level courses in Fine Art or Photography, or gain access to a college course. You can also apply the skills learnt to a variety of non art courses.

Will this course suit me?

This course builds on the skills that you have been taught in Year 9 and is for those who want to realise your artistic ideas in a more thorough and in depth way. The course is structured to develop each student's strengths and to stretch your imagination and creative skills.



Supporting Careers:

> Designers > Architects > Creative Industries

BTEC Business

North and South:

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Course Content:

This course gives you an introduction to all aspects of business. It is a vocational qualification. The BTEC First award in Business is equivalent to one GCSE.

It will give you the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and develop skills in the business areas such as marketing, finance, sales, recruitment and retail. The course involves an investigation of all business functions and the emphasis is placed on realistic business contexts. It enables you to develop an understanding of how various business functions such as finance, human and physical resources work together as part of a cohesive business.

The aim of the course is to encourage investigation and to support a highly active, student centred approach. The course is assessed through a combination of coursework and examinations and consequently it requires you to be committed and apply yourself at all times.

What is a BTEC?

BTECs are vocationally related qualifications, where learners develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work-related context. Additionally, they are popular and effective because they engage learners to take responsibility for their own learning and to develop skills that are essential for the modern-day workplace. It is equivalent to 1 GCSE, and is accepted alongside other qualifications as entry to Sixth Form, college or apprenticeships.

How is this course assessed?

This course is assessed by a combination of coursework (75%) and exams (25%). You will complete four units over the course. You are assessed through practical group work and individual tasks.

Internal assessments will include:

- Developing professional posters and leaflets
- Role play
- Report and memo writing
- Article writing
- Excel spread sheets
- Delivering presentations

Progression

This subject will give you an excellent platform from which to go on and study further Business Studies courses at both AS/ A2 and university level. It will also help you to understand more about the Business world which is all around us. You will become skilled in solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data, communicating and working as part of a team. Even if you do not go on to study Business further you will benefit from the course because all jobs involve working in a business environment.

Will this course suit me?

The course will focus on four key skills, which will be of use not only in year 10 and year 11 but also further studies. These are Knowledge, Application, Analysis and Evaluation. Throughout the two year course these skills will be developed to enable you to look at real life Business situations from a variety of viewpoints (e.g. Business, Customer or the Government). You will be assessed in both controlled assessment and examination so all learning styles are catered for. Lessons are delivered with high levels of enthusiasm and support and you will learn about modern and relevant topics.



Supporting Careers:

>Law>Accountancy>Marketing>Leisure and Tourism

Drama

South: amy.jones@ewsacademy.org.uk

North: rebecca.griffin@ewsacademy.org.uk

Course Content:

GCSE Drama is all about understanding what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. You will play many parts in different imaginary situations. You will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at plays written by other people. You will also have the opportunity to learn about how to become a Director and create your own concepts.

The specific skills taught across Drama enable our students to create interesting and vibrant pieces of work and/or performances. They are also encouraged to develop skills of cooperation, confidence, independent learning and valuable life and leadership skills.

The Topics include:

Some of the topics on the course give you the opportunity to take performances on tour to local primary schools, take part in school productions, develop performance skills (e.g. lighting, sound, mask, costume and set), work with a range of scripts such as Blue Stockings, An Inspector Calls, Women in Black and Missing Dan Nolan as well as study different practitioners such as Brecht, Stanislavski, Frantic Assembly and Artaud. This course is exciting, rewarding and challenging.

Progression:

There are many things you can go on to do after studying Drama GCSE. During the course you will be acquiring skills in working with others, problem solving, team work, time management and communication; you will be learning how to respond to various different stimulus, developing these further and evaluating.

The course is in three parts:

- **Component 1 (40% of the qualification):**
Devising: Through this unit you will create, develop, perform and analyse a devised piece of theatre from a stimulus.
- **Component 2 (20% of the qualification):**
Performance from Text: Through this unit you will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text.
- **Component 3 (40% of the qualification):**
Theatre Makers in Practice: Through this unit you will complete a written examination that will look at the study of one complete text and a live theatre evaluation.

How is this course assessed?

Component 1: Devising – This unit is assessed through a performance and coursework, which is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 2: Performance from Text – This unit is assessed externally through the practical performances of two extracts.

Component 3: Theatre Makers In Practice – This Unit is a written examination and is externally assessed.

Will this course suit me?

Yes, if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative.

Yes, if you do not mind standing up and performing in front of a group.

Yes, if you can work with different students – not just your friends.

Yes, if you enjoy working as part of a team as Drama involves a lot of group work.

Yes, if you don't mind working hard and sometimes putting in extra hours outside lessons.



Supporting Careers:

>Teaching>Lecturing>Management>Law>Leisure and Tourism>Sales and Marketing

Design and Technology GCSE

North and South:

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Course Content:

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.

How is this course assessed?

50% Non-exam assessment (NEA). A project with folder and practical work (30–35 hours approx.)
50% Written Exam: 2 hours long

Progression:

With a good pass in Design Technology you can progress on to our Product Design A level, or other engineering or design courses at colleges, or use the skills learn on an apprenticeship to work in a trade. The project and practical skills taught was also be valuable life skills and could be applied in many other areas.

Will this course suit me?

Pick this subject if you enjoy making products with lots of practical lessons, and have an interest in design or engineering.



Supporting Careers:

Any field of Design>Engineering>Architecture>Manufacturing

Level 2 Financial Studies

IFS Level 2 Certificate In Financial Education

North and South: reuben.freeman@ewsacademy.org.uk

Course Content:

This course is designed to bring finance to life. You need to be good at communicating and explaining your ideas. You will learn about financial products, such as bank accounts, loans and investments, you will also study a unit on enterprise providing a close link with business studies. You will also learn about the world of finance through research and investigation as well as through practical tasks. At a time where financial education is more relevant than ever before, this course offers you an excellent opportunity to study a wide area of issues.

Units which will be studied include:

Unit 1: Finance, the individual and society (FIS)

In this unit students will investigate topics that look at the types and use of money; this will include tax, inflation, interest rates and how the personal life cycle affects the financial decisions being made.

Unit 2: Practices of managing money (PMM)

In this unit students will look deeper into how individuals manage money, budgeting for now and the future and how these decisions affect financial security. Students will also learn about the different types of loans and the real cost of borrowing.

Unit 3: Financial capability, work and enterprise (FCWE)

In this unit Enterprise is the main focus, students will investigate the skills that are needed to be Enterprising, they will study real life examples and have the chance to develop their own Businesses.

How is this course assessed?

Unit 1: This unit is assessed through a multiple choice exam.

Unit 2: This unit is assessed through a multiple choice exam.

Unit 3: This unit is assessed by a written exam based on a pre-release case study.

Progression:

This subject will give you an excellent platform from which to go on and study further Financial Studies courses at both Level 3 and university level. It will also help you to understand more about the Financial world which is all around us. You will become skilled in solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data, communicating and working as part of a team. Even if you do not go on to study Finance further you will benefit from the course because many jobs involve Finance. A level 2 qualification in Finance could lead to work in a Finance/Business related profession such as accountancy, law, or the banking sector.



Supporting Careers:

> Accounting > Banking > Business Management > Book Keeping

Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE

North and South:

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Course Content:

This specification in food preparation and nutrition enables learners to make connections between theory and practice so that they are able to apply their understanding of food science and nutrition to practical cooking.

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

This content relates to the study of both food and drinks.

How is this course assessed?

Component 1

Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition
Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of the qualification
100 marks

Areas of Content:

1. Food commodities
2. Principles of nutrition
3. Diet and good health
4. The science of food
5. Where food comes from
6. Cooking and food preparation

Component 2

Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action
Non-examination assessment
50% of the qualification
100 marks

Assessment 1: The Food Investigation Assessment, 15% of total qualification, 8 hours.

Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment, 35% of total qualification, 12 hours.

Progression:

This specification builds on subject content which is typically taught at Key Stage 3 and provides a suitable foundation for the study of WJEC Level 3 Food, Science and Nutrition and other food-related courses at either AS or A level. In addition, this specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for learners who do not progress to further study in this subject.



Supporting Careers

>Catering>Retail>Nutritionist

Geography

North and South:

emma.beckley@ewsacademy.org.uk

Course Content:

The world is always changing. Geography gives you the chance to learn about changes that have happened and look to the future to consider changes that may happen.

During the course you will study the Geography of your local area and the UK including rivers and coasts, life in cities and rural areas and our use of resources now and into the future. The course also looks at global issues such as levels of development, climate change and how people live with and respond to natural events such as earthquakes, volcanoes and extreme weather.

You will learn new geographical skills such as cartography (map making), as well as graphical, numerical and statistical techniques. You will learn how to create these, to interpret what they can tell us and then use them to draw conclusions and inform decisions.

As part of the course you will have to carry out field work in two different environments to investigate physical and human processes and the interconnections between them.

How is this course assessed?

There are three exams papers that will assess your knowledge and understanding, geographical skills and your own experience of fieldwork.

Progression:

Students can continue onto A Geography where they will continue to develop their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding.

Geography is a sort after subject by both employers and universities because of the diverse range of skills required to complete the course – 'it's the must have A-level', The Guardian 13th August 2015.

Will this course suit me?

In order to answer this question, ask yourself what you enjoy about studying geography.

Try these questions. Do I want to...

- Learn about and understand the world I live in?
- Develop skills that will help me in other subjects and in employment, such as ICT and research?
- Complete practical work away from the classroom?
- Learn how to work in a team with other students?
- Learn through investigating, not listening and reading?



Supporting Careers:

>Transport Planner>Tourism Office>International Aid Worker>Town Planner >Commercial/residential Surveyor

History

North and South:

rob.peskett@ewsacademy.org.uk

Course Content:

The GCSE is made up of 4 parts:

America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality

This period study focuses on the development of the USA during a turbulent half century of change. It was a period of opportunity and inequality – when some Americans lived the ‘American Dream’ whilst others grappled with the nightmare of poverty, discrimination and prejudice. Think; Ku Klux Klan, Rock and Roll, Martin Luther King, and Vietnam.

Conflict and tension, 1918–1939

This wider world depth study enables students to understand the complex and diverse interests of different individuals and states including the Great Powers. It looks at concepts such as national self-determination, ideas of internationalism and the challenges of revising the peace settlement. It focuses on the causes of the Second World War. Think; Treaty of Versailles, Adolf Hitler, and the Munich Agreement.

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

This thematic study will enable students to gain an understanding of how medicine and public health developed in Britain over a long period of time. Think; the Black Death, surgery, x-rays, and the creation of the NHS.

Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

This option allows students to study in depth a specified period, the last 35 years of Elizabeth I's reign. The study will focus on major events of Elizabeth I's reign considered from economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoints, and arising contemporary and historical controversies. Think; Mary Queen of Scots, and the Spanish Armada.

How is this course assessed?

- 2 Written exams: each 1 hour 45 minutes
- 84 marks each (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- Each paper is equal to 50% of GCSE

Progression:

History will suit anyone who is up for a challenge and wants to understand the world around them. A good grade at GCSE will allow progression onto History A level. GCSE History can also provide successful progression onto English, Law and vocational pathways.



Supporting Careers:

>Law>Journalism>Teaching>Civil Service

BTEC Firsts in Health & Social Care

North and South:

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Course Content:

The course gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on three areas:

- Skills and processes, such as interpreting data to assess an individual's health, and designing a plan to improve their health and wellbeing
- Attitudes, namely the care values that are vitally important in the sector, and the opportunity to practise applying them
- Knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes, including human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing.

This qualification builds on and uses the knowledge and skills that are learned in your other subjects such as English. It will complement the more theoretical aspects covered by science or Psychology by allowing you to apply your knowledge and skills practically in a vocational context.

How is this course assessed?

- Components 1 and 2 are controlled assessments which are internally assessed
- Component 3 is a 3 hour assessment over a 1 week period which is externally assessed.

Progression:

Students can progress onto the Level 3 BTEC Health & Social Care course or other related health sector courses.

Will this course suit me?

BTECs are vocationally related qualifications that develop knowledge and skills in students and apply them to a work context. If you prefer to study through coursework and real life experiences, this course would suit you. It requires organisation, research skills and the need to meet regular deadlines throughout the course rather than exams at the end of the course.



Supporting Careers:

> Childcare > Public Services > Health Care Professions

ICT – Cambridge Nationals Creative iMedia

North and South:

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Course Content:

Creative iMedia lets learners gain knowledge in a number of key areas in the media field, from pre-production skills to digital animation, and offers a hands-on approach to learning. The options available offer the chance for students to explore areas of creative media that interest them. The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia will also provide opportunities to develop useful transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

The topics

Compulsory units:

- Pre-production Skills
- Creating Digital Graphics

Optional Units (a choice of 2 as selected by the school):

- 2D & 3D digital characters
- Websites
- Interactive multimedia products
- Digital sound / video/ photography / games
- Digital animation
- Game concepts
- Story telling

How is this course assessed?

Most of the qualification is tested by coursework that is set and marked by the teacher. This will be done throughout the course. So if students like project work, enjoy researching and doing practical things they may find a Cambridge National a better option than a GCSE.

One of the units that students must take – on pre-production skills – involves a written exam that lasts one hour and 15 minutes and is set and marked by OCR.

Progression:

The course is effective preparation for a range of qualifications including IT Level 3 or Digital Media Level 3. You could also move into AS or A Level Computer Science.

Will this course suit me?

Yes but you need a real interest in ICT and an eye for design. You will need an appetite for learning and being able to meet deadlines.



Supporting Careers:

- > Web Design > Games Developer
- > Network Administrator > Sound Technician

Modern Foreign Languages GCSE

North and South: flavie.lemert@ewsacademy.org.uk

North Campus will offer GCSE French and German

South Campus will offer GCSE French and Spanish

Course Content:

There are three themes to be covered in the course:

Theme 1: Identity and culture; family, technology, free time

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest: home, social issues, environment, travel

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment: school, work

How is this course assessed?

The exam is in 4 parts:

- **Unit 1:** Listening 25%
- **Unit 2:** Speaking 25%
- **Unit 3:** Reading 25%
- **Unit 4:** Writing 25%

All exams are taken at the end of the course.

Progression:

With a good pass, you can progress onto A Level courses. This course involves a variety of learning skills and leads to the acquisition of important life skills and a greater ability to understand and communicate at all levels. People who have studied a Modern Foreign Language demonstrate enhanced mental agility, creativity and higher order thinking skills. A language GCSE is a significant indicator of ability. In an ever changing world a second language can be vital. Universities and Businesses are increasingly looking for students who can communicate across the globe and your language qualification will demonstrate that you have an aptitude in this field.

Will this course suit me?

Whilst you will be fully supported, the course will require a great deal of independent learning and will suit students who are confident, enjoy manipulating language, enjoy problem solving and finding alternative ways to express themselves, are creative and open to new experiences and cultures. You will do well if you have perseverance, if you can think logically and can see and apply patterns. These skills will be further developed during the course thus equipping you for your future whichever direction you choose to pursue.



Supporting Careers:

- > Interpreter > Translator > Diplomatic Services Operational officer
- > Logistics and Distribution Manager > Tour Manager

Music GCSE

North and South:

andrew.williams@ewsacademy.org.uk

Course Content:

This is a highly practical course that covers a wide range of musical styles from different times, places and cultures. On the course you will develop your performing, composing, listening and understanding skills. Most lessons will involve musical performing, so the ability to play an instrument or to sing is essential. Composition work will be an integral part of each unit and will therefore gradually develop over time. This course is exciting and interesting for all those that have a passion for Music or want to study further.

The Course Overview

The course consists of three components which are:

Performing: A minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble performance of at least one minute duration. The other piece(s) may be either solo and/or ensemble.

Composing: Students will compose two pieces. The first composition students will choose one brief from a choice of four, each one linked to a different area of study. The second composition is a free composition for which learners set their own brief.

Appraising: This component is a listening exam with eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study:

- Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices
- Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble
- Area of study 3: Film Music
- Area of study 4: Popular Music

Two of the eight questions are based on extracts set by WJEC.

How is this course assessed?

The course has three methods of assessment: Performing, composing and a listening exam.

Component 1: Performing: This is assessed through a total of 4-6 minute performance. This is internally assessed and externally moderated. This component is worth 30% of the overall GCSE.

Component 2: Composing: This is assessed through a total of 3-6 minute compositions. This is internally assessed and externally moderated. This component is worth 30% of the overall GCSE.

Component 3: Appraising: This is an externally assessed listening exam. The exam is for 1 hour and 15 minutes and is worth 40% of the overall GCSE.

Progression:

GCSE Music will encourage you to develop skills that are transferable to many other courses. You will develop your self-confidence as well as your communication skills; you will be performing and presenting ideas regularly, and working with others on group projects throughout the course. A good pass in GCSE Music will enable you to study A level Music or A level Music Technology further. Previous students have gone on to study Music, Drama, Media at university or have gone into the music industry.

Will this course suit me?

If you enjoy performing, and you want to develop your knowledge of different styles of music as well as your composing skills, then this course is ideal for you. You need to be able to play an instrument or sing as you will be assessed on your individual and group performing skills, and you will be given opportunities to develop these throughout the course.



Supporting Careers:

> Musician > Sound Technician, Broadcasting/Film/Video

> Broadcast Engineer > Radio Producer > Theatre Stage Manager

Physical Education

South: stuart.higgins@ewsacademy.org.uk

North: tracey.cotter@ewsacademy.org.uk

Course Content:

The course is designed to build on experiences in KS3 through a broad and balanced curriculum. You will have both theoretical and practical lessons, focusing on a range of components to develop your knowledge, understanding and practical application through a variety of experiences. You will also plan, undertake and evaluate your own personal exercise, analysing your performance to strive for higher goals.

Theory topics include:

Anatomy & Physiology for Sport – Exploring how the body systems operate during physical activity. Developing knowledge and understanding of how the body works and how it can be maintained in order to be fit and healthy.

Movement Analysis – Develop knowledge and understanding of first, second and third class levers and their use in physical activity, as well as the three planes and axes of movement in a sporting context

Physical Training – Incorporates fitness testing and training. How to optimise training to avoid injury and the effective use of a warm up and cool down. A personal exercise plan is also designed and undertaken in this module.

Health, fitness and well-being – Explore the benefits of physical, social and emotional health and the importance of a balanced diet on sports performance.

Sports Psychology – The importance of goal setting and feedback to optimise performance and the role of mental preparation for performance.

Practical Application – Offers opportunities to engage in a wide variety of practical activities, leading to specialising in 3 sports, with at least 1 individual and 1 team sport being selected for external moderation.

How is this course assessed?

Assessment

60% Theory – Two external examinations at the end of Year 11 which include a variety of short and longer questions.

40% practical – Top 3 sports selected to be examined by an external moderator. The personal exercise plan is assessed as coursework.

Progression:

This subject will give you an excellent platform from which to go on and study further Sports Related courses at Level 3, college and university. It also provides you with the required input to support your progression as a Sports Leader. Being able to write on your CV that you have engaged in sports leadership and the co-operation, communication and confidence this brings with it, is always a positive for potential employers. You are also encouraged to take on responsibilities within school that help provide further opportunities for younger students to engage in physical activity with your guidance, leadership & support. You will be given the chance to develop, promote and run your own sports events and clubs.

Will this course suit me?

The course offers a wide range of development through the means of Sport & Physical Activity. If you enjoy PE you will thrive on developing your skill set further through the varied opportunities available. The theory components give you a good background in anatomy and physiology as well as healthy and active lifestyles.



Supporting Careers:

> Fitness Centre Manager > Teacher > Sports Coach > Sports Therapist
> Health Promotion Specialist > Exercise Physiologist

Study of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics GCSE

North and South:

charlotte.gordon@ewsacademy.org.uk

Course Content:

This exciting new course is in two parts – component 1 and component 2. Component 1 focuses on religious beliefs and practices in two religions. Component 2 is about philosophical and ethical issues, for example 'does God exist' and 'is it right to fight in a war?' Here are some more examples of what you will learn:

1. The Problem of Evil and Suffering

This topic asks questions such as 'Where does evil come from?' and 'If God loves everyone why does he allow evil to happen?' It also explores how different religions respond to the problem of evil as well as how they respond to those who are suffering.

2. Crime and Punishment

This topic asks whether people should be forgiven no matter what as well as whether capital punishment (the death penalty) is an appropriate punishment for offenders. Is it right to take someone's life if they have committed a crime?

3. Origins

How did everything start? Was it the Big Bang or did God create the universe? How can we know? What about evolution?

4. Beliefs, teachings and practices

You will investigate what two world religions (Christianity and one other) believe and how they put their faith into practice. For example, why and how do Jews eat special foods? What do Christians really believe about Jesus Christ?

All of the topics give you an opportunity to say what you think and engage in debate.

Philosophy will also give you an insight into the different attitudes of believers and non-believers.

How is this course assessed?

The course is assessed through two external examinations each of 1 hour 45 mins. There is a variety of questions – some short, some longer. Both examinations will be taken at the end of Year 11.

Progression:

This course enables you to move on to take Philosophy and Ethics at A Level. It also equips you with a variety of skills. You will be encouraged to have an enquiring mind, explore beliefs which may be different from your own and respond personally to these issues. You will also be encouraged to reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes in light of your learning.

Will this course suit me?

Do you like to argue and debate? To study Philosophy you need to have an open and questioning mind. You need to have an understanding of the fact that everyone has the right to their own opinions even if they are different from your own. Good listening skills are essential as is an ability to express what you think. Part of the course will require you to look at different religious views so you do need an interest in people's beliefs and faith systems.



Supporting Careers:

> Solicitor > Barrister > Health Service Manager > Psychotherapist

Headteacher: Mr Jeremy Bennett

Assistant Headteacher (North Campus): Mrs Ella Lloyd-Jones

Assistant Headteacher (South Campus): Miss Louise Symonds

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