WHICKHAM
SCHOOL & SPORTS COLLEGE

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Course Guide 2012

WHICKHAM
SCHOOL & SPORTS COLLEGE

OUTSTANDING IN EVERYTHING WE DO

INTRODUCTION

Sixth Form Prospectus and Courses

Whickham Sixth Form offers an extensive curriculum to meet the needs of all learners. Over thirty subjects are available offering both progression from GCSE and BTEC First Awards as well presenting opportunities to study new subject areas.

Five different types of course are offered:

- A level courses
- BTEC courses
- Principal Learning (Creative & Media)
- Applied A level courses (Science)
- GCSE resit courses (Maths and English only)

A level, BTEC and Applied A levels are all level three courses of equal standard. However, each type of course differs in respect of the assessment and teaching and learning approaches. Details of these differences can be read in the individual course summaries.

A-levels

A-levels were revised in September 2008. These revisions were designed to make the qualification more challenging and stimulating to students. The main changes were:

- Most subjects were reduced from six units to four (except for maths, music and the sciences). This helped reduce the assessment burden on students.
- Changes to assessment resulted in a broad range of question types that test a wide range of skills.
- Questions requiring extended answers were introduced that allow students to demonstrate the depth of their knowledge.
- Synoptic assessment is taking place that tests students' understanding of a subject as a whole.
- An A* grade was introduced to the grading of A level (not AS level) to reward exceptional performance. This is awarded to students who achieve an A grade overall and 90% or above on the uniform mark scale (UMS) across their A2 units. The structure of each of the A level courses on offer is documented in the subject information in this booklet.

BTEC Courses

These courses are vocational in nature and allow students to specialise, to varying degrees, in a particular subject. The levels on offer are:

- BTEC Subsidiary Diploma – equivalent to 1 A level
- BTEC Diploma (90) – equivalent to 1.5 A levels (new for 2012)
- BTEC Diploma – equivalent to 2 A levels
- BTEC Extended Diploma - equivalent to 3 A levels

These courses are assessed using a Pass, Merit and Distinction criterion that is equivalent to E, C and A grades. If a student achieves a distinction in every unit they will achieve the equivalent of an A* grade.

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Subject	Entry Requirement for Advanced course
Applied Science	5 C grades at GCSE including Science
Art (Fine Art)	C grade in artistic GCSE or evidence of ability
Art / Design BTEC	5 C grades at GCSE
Biology	B grade Maths & B grade Biology or Additional Science GCSE
Business	C grade English Language GCSE
Business BTEC	5 C grades at GCSE
Chemistry	B grade Maths & B grade Chemistry or Additional Science GCSE
Design (Textiles)	C grade in artistic GCSE
Design Technology	C grade at GCSE
Economics	C grade Maths at GCSE
English Language	C grade English Language GCSE
English Literature	B grade English Literature GCSE
French	B grade at French GCSE
Further Maths	A grade at Maths GCSE
Geography	C grade at GCSE (if not taken, C grade English Language GCSE)
German	B grade at German GCSE
Government and Politics	C grade at GCSE (if not taken, C grade English Language GCSE)
Health and Social Care BTEC	5 C grades at GCSE or a pass in BTEC 1st
History	C grade at GCSE (if not taken, C grade English Language GCSE)
IT BTEC	5 C grades at GCSE or a pass in BTEC 1st
Media Studies	GCSE Media Studies or C grade in English Language and English Literature
Maths	B grade in higher tier GCSE
Music	C grade at GCSE or after consultation with Head of Music
PE	C grade at GCSE (if not taken, C grade English Language GCSE) & C grade Science GCSE
Performing Arts (Acting) BTEC	C grade English Language GCSE
Performing Arts (Dance) BTEC	
Physics	B grade Maths and B grade Physics or Additional Science GCSE
Psychology	C grade Maths, C grade Science and B grade English Language GCSE
RE and Philosophy	C grade at GCSE (if not taken, C grade English Language GCSE)
Sociology	C grade English Language GCSE
Sport BTEC	5 C grades at GCSE or a pass in BTEC 1st (merit for those wishing to do the extended diploma)
Travel & Tourism BTEC	5 C grades at GCSE

BUSINESS STUDIES

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mrs. Goodall**

COURSE:

Business Studies; AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:

AQA

LENGTH OF COURSE:

AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE BUSINESS STUDIES?

The course provides an excellent working knowledge of the world of business. You will develop a range of analytical and personal skills, required for employment and progression into higher education. Typical destinations can be degree courses in business, or business with other disciplines such as computing, languages, marketing and human resources, sports management or in management and administration. More and more people in many varied work areas are finding knowledge of business invaluable. A level business studies compliments many other A level subjects. It allows students to develop skills in analysis and evaluation, problem solving and data handling, as well as independent learning. Whilst it is desirable to have GCSE business studies, it is not essential and many students new to the subject go on to achieve high grades.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The course is based on four modules. Two will be studied in Year 12, comprising an AS level. A further two modules will be studied in Year 13 making up the A level qualification. The course integrates the internal functions of a business through topics such as sales and marketing, finance, operations management, human resources, as well as examining the dynamic external environment within which businesses operate and the effects this can have on business decision making.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

Business Studies adopts a practical and topical approach, with current case studies and investigative reports being the main vehicles for learning. Visits to industry and visiting speakers from industry are an important feature, allowing you to study business at first hand. The Business Studies Department offers up to date resources via the computer network, internet, CD-ROM magazines and textbooks, which are available for student use.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Year 12 (AS Level)

1. Planning and Financing a Business (40% of AS) (20% of A level). Short answer questions and extended responses based on a mini case study.

2. Managing a Business (60% of AS) (30% of A level). Multi-part data response questions.

Year 13 (A2 Level)

3. Strategies for Success (25% of A level). Extended answer questions based on an unseen case study.

4. The Business Environment and Managing Change (25% of A level). Pre-released research tasks leading to questions and a choice of essay questions.

The AS course develops understanding of setting up and managing a business, giving students a broad knowledge of business activities, and insight into measuring and improving effectiveness. This is developed in Year 13, when emphasis is on using analytical and evaluative skills to make informed business decisions.

BTEC BUSINESS

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Miss K Kinghorn**

COURSE:

BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Business (1 A level)

BTEC Diploma in Business (2 A levels)

EXAMINING BOARD:

EdExcel

LENGTH OF COURSE:

1 or 2 Years

WHY CHOOSE BTEC NATIONAL BUSINESS?

This vocational course is equivalent to one or two A levels and can be combined with traditional A level subjects or other vocational A level subjects. It is designed to provide a specialist work-related qualification, giving learners the knowledge, understanding and skills needed for employment or further study. It gives learners an introduction to and understanding of a wide range of business activities. The course is likely to appeal to those who enjoy vocational study, who are interested in a career in business, or wish to achieve an enhanced qualification in this field as a route to higher education.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The diploma consists of 12 units; four core units and eight specialist units. The four core units and two specialist units are taught in Year 12 (one A level), and a further 6 specialist units are taught in Year 13 (one A level).

It is possible to study to BTEC Subsidiary Diploma level only (one A level), by completing the Year 12 scheme of work. This is available over one or two years.

Year 12 (One A Level)

Core Units:

- Exploring Business Activity
- Investigating Business Resources
- Introduction to Marketing
- Effective People, Communication and Information
- plus 2 Specialist Units

Year 13 (One A Level)

A further 6 specialist units covering a wide range of business topics which could include human resource management, finance, marketing, administration, e- Business and the use of ICT, health and safety, retailing, business ethics, the economic and international business environment and business start-up.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

Teaching styles will vary but will focus on developing understanding of the various aspects of business through case studies, visits, visiting speakers, links with local organisations within the industry and individual research. Entry to the course requires a minimum of 5 GCSEs at A*-C with English and Maths being desired. You need not have studied the subject before, but you will need to enjoy practical activities with course work assignments. A capacity for individual study and an ability to meet deadlines and respond to feedback is an advantage.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Assessment focuses on assignments set for each unit. There are no external examinations.

BTEC TRAVEL & TOURISM

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Miss K Kinghorn**

COURSE:

BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Travel & Tourism (1 A level)

EXAMINING BOARD:

EdExcel

LENGTH OF COURSE:

2 Years

WHY CHOOSE TRAVEL & TOURISM?

The travel and tourism industry continues to grow at a rapid pace. The last ten years have seen a huge increase in the amount of travel undertaken by individuals for both leisure and business purposes. The growth of the budget airlines has lead to an increase in short-break holidays, the growth of regional airports and new hospitality businesses. This rapid expansion has led to huge demand for a more flexibly-skilled work force. Specific skills gaps identified in Travel and Tourism include customer service skills, destination geography and business skills. This course has been designed to provide an all-round introduction to the travel and tourism industry and to fill some of these skills gaps. It is a vocational course equivalent to one A level, and can be combined with traditional A level subjects or other vocational A level subjects. It can provide a route into higher education, or a career in the industry such as retail travel, visitor attractions, accommodation, transport and tour operations. It will appeal to those who enjoy vocational study, or are seeking a career in the industry.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The award consists of 6 units: 4 core units and 2 specialist units.

Core Units

- Investigating Travel and Tourism
- The Business of Travel and Tourism
- The UK as a Destination
- Customer Service in Travel and Tourism

Specialist Units

- Preparing for Employment in the Travel and Tourism Industry
- The European travel Market
- Long-haul Travel destinations
- Retail and Business Travel
- Current Issues in Travel and Tourism

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

Teaching styles will vary but will focus on developing understanding of the various aspects of the industry through case studies, visits, visiting speakers, links with local organisations within the industry and individual research. Entry to the course requires a minimum of 5 GCSEs at A*-C with English and Maths being desired. You need not have studied the subject before, but you will need to enjoy practical activities with course work assignments. A capacity for individual study and an ability to respond to feedback and meet deadlines is an advantage.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Assessment focuses on assignments set for each unit. There are no external examinations.

BTEC IT

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mr Gunn**

COURSE:

BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Information Technology (½ A level)

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Information Technology (1 A level)

BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Information Technology (2 A levels)

EXAMINING BOARD:

EdExcel

LENGTH OF COURSE:

1 year (Certificate) or 2 years (all others)

WHY CHOOSE BTEC NATIONAL IT?

BTEC Level 3 in Information Technology is a practical work related course, which gives students a wide range of career and higher education opportunities within the IT sector. The two-year course is designed to give students the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to prepare them for employment or as a springboard to move forward and study for certificates, diplomas or degrees. Recent research has shown that students who take BTEC Level 3 courses are likely to earn an additional £59,000 to £92,000 0ver their working life (TES 05/11/10). The projects and assignments are based on the realistic workplace situations, activities and demands of one of the biggest sectors in the UK. IT counts for 2% of UK employment and four out of ten UK businesses employ IT professionals.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

BTEC Level 3 in Information Technology is made up of mandatory and optional units. The assignments for all units must be completed to at least pass the course. There are no external exams.

Subsidiary Diploma

Mandatory:

- Communication and employability skills for IT
- Computer systems

Optional:

- An additional 4 units

Diploma

Mandatory:

- Communication and employability skills for IT
- Computer systems
- Information systems
- Impact of IT on business systems

Optional:

- An additional 8 units

The optional units are chosen to fit in with the expertise of your teaching staff.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least five GCSEs at grade A*-C or BTEC First Diploma/Certificate for ICT Practitioners

OUTSTANDING IN EVERYTHING WE DO

GERMAN

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mrs Etherington / Mrs Hamilton**

COURSE:
German AS and A2 Level

EXAMINING BOARD:
EdExcel

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE GERMAN?

A Level German is not just for those who want to study Modern Languages at University. Many students over the past few years have studied German in combination with Maths, a Science, Economics, Business Studies or Design, as well as with the more traditional Arts subjects. Many degree courses now involve a language and, in an expanding European Union, people with an advanced language qualification will have more opportunity to live and work abroad as well as enhanced job prospects. If you have obtained a good GCSE grade why not consider German as one of your subjects? Remember, if you have studied one foreign language to this level it is easier to learn another at University or in later life.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The course builds on the four skill areas required for GCSE. Linguistic expertise is consolidated and expanded by studying language structures and contemporary texts in greater depth.

In the first year the emphasis is on the skills required for Modules 1 and 2 – listening, reading, writing and speaking. Topic areas covered include issues of general interest such as Family Problems, Education and Employment, the Environment, Leisure Pursuits, the Media, Health and Fitness. In addition to this some time will be spent developing students' cultural awareness of German speaking countries. There is also thorough revision of grammar and vocabulary.

In the second year skills in discursive essay writing are developed and a broader approach to oral work is adopted for Unit 3 and research on a chosen topic is undertaken for an essay question in Unit 4. There is further practice of listening and reading.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

A range of learning styles is employed, including the regular use of audio and video tapes. Students are expected to contribute in every lesson in order to practise language skills.

Prospective students should have a minimum of a B grade at GCSE. Homework tasks are set weekly and include grammar exercises, vocabulary learning, short essays in German, reading tasks, preparation of oral presentations and responding to audio or video cassette. Students will also receive an extra hour per fortnight for speaking practice. This is a compulsory element of the course which takes place after school.

FRENCH

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mrs Richardson**

COURSE:
French AS and A2 Level

EXAMINING BOARD:
EdExcel

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE FRENCH?

It's a multilingual world, not everyone speaks English. 94% of the world does not speak English as their first language, 75% does not speak English at all. A recent report stated that linguists are likely to earn an extra £3,000 per annum and the languages most needed are French, German, Spanish and Italian. French is now a subject that can be studied alone or with many other disciplines. Higher education offers an enormous range of academic and vocational courses with a language e.g. French - Engineering French - Business Studies French – Law French - Mathematics French – Physics French - Film Studies. Remember, if you have studied one foreign language to this level it is easier to learn another at University or in later life. A foreign language is an extra skill and any qualification in a foreign language will help to provide students with a wider range of job opportunities and the opportunity to travel abroad and perhaps spend a year in France or a French speaking country. So if you are interested in Science or ICT why not study a language as well? If you have enjoyed your GCSE course why not consider French AS Level in Year 12 and then A2 Level in Year 13.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Year 12

The course continues to build on the language skills already gained at GCSE leading to a higher level of competence in the language. In the first year the emphasis is on the skills required for Units 1 and 2 i.e. listening, reading, writing and speaking. An intensive grammar course is an integral part of the first year. This is essential if students are to successfully manipulate and understand the language.

Year 13

In the second year students will have the opportunity to research and write about a topic of their choice and the emphasis of assessment will be speaking and writing.
There will be a focused approach to develop these skills.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

A range of learning styles is employed and students are encouraged to develop their language building expertise through private study. Students are encouraged to use the Internet for research purposes and there is a wealth of ICT language practice material. There is always a great deal of opportunity to contribute in every lesson in order to practise language skills and develop confidence.

Prospective students should be have a minimum of B grade GCSE. Students will also receive an extra hour per fortnight for speaking practice. This is a compulsory element of the course which takes place after school.

OUTSTANDING IN EVERYTHING WE DO

SOCIOLOGY

Overview | **Course Leader and contact for this course:** **Mr Higgs**

COURSE:

Sociology AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:

OCR

LENGTH OF COURSE:

AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is an attempt to understand how society works.
You will look at topics such as:

- What influences our identity;
- Reasons for the existence of crime;
- The experiences of young people in society;
- Why people are rich or poor.

Through learning sociology, you will learn about how human societies are constructed and where our beliefs and daily routines come from. You will re-examine your taken-for-granted assumptions and will never think about people in the same way again.
Sociology is accepted by universities as an academic subject and can lead to careers as varied as:

• Social work and caring professions • Law • Police • Politics • Teaching and Further Education • Market Research • Civil Service • Local Government Services

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Year 12 AS

- Exploring Socialisation, Culture and Identity
- The Sociology of Youth Culture
- At both AS and A2 level you will study methods of research in relation to Sociology.

Year 13 A2

- The Sociology of Crime and Deviance
- Exploring Social Inequality and difference

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

During the course you will experience a variety of teaching and learning situations. The emphasis is on active learning, where you will be given a variety of ways to explore the way society works (or sometimes doesn't!).

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

In year 12 you will be assessed by two 1½ hour exams. One of which is based on pre-released material. In year 13 you will sit one 1½ hour exam and a 2 hour exam.

BTEC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Overview | **Contact for this course:** **Mrs A Gowland**

COURSE:

BTEC level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (1 A level)

BTEC level 3 Diploma (2 A levels)

BTEC level 3 Extended Diploma (3 A levels)

EXAMINING BOARD:

EdExcel

LENGTH OF COURSE:

1 or 2 years

WHY CHOOSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE?

BTEC Nationals in Health and Social Care have been developed in the health and social care sectors to give students the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised vocationally specific qualification. These are designed to give students the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to enter employment in the health and social care sectors or to progress onto higher education qualifications. Students learn and use a variety of transferable skills, completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic work place situations, activities and demands.

Progression from the BTEC Extended Diploma/Diploma could be into employment where students might take professional body examinations or NVQs. Alternatively, students could continue to degree or other higher education programmes in the same vocational sector or in a related sector. The BTEC Subsidiary Diploma/Certificate is especially suitable for students, who wish to follow a shorter programme of study which can provide vocational emphasis for students following an Applied GCE or GCE route or a combination of both in their main programme of study.

The courses can lead to a wide range of careers, for example: Social work, Nursing, Teaching, Police, Caring for children or the elderly, Medical science, Managing Health and Care Services Paramedic.

THE COURSE STRUCTURE?

BTEC Extended Diploma/Diploma is made up of eight mandatory units plus specialist units. The Extended Diploma and the Diploma both require a minimum of 100 hours of work experience (you should choose to do work experience as your enrichment option)

BTEC Subsidiary Diploma consists of three mandatory units and a number of additional specialist units.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

- Equality, diversity and rights in Health and Social Care
- Developing effective communication in Health and Social Care
- Health, Safety and Security
- Development through the life stages
- Human anatomy and physiology
- Personal professional development
- Sociological and psychological perspectives in Health and Social Care.
- Health education
- Public health
- Complementary therapies
- Technology in Health and Social Care Service

(Your tutors will internally assess all units.)

OUTSTANDING IN EVERYTHING WE DO

HISTORY

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mr Cowie**

COURSE:

History AS and A2 Level

EXAMINING BOARD:

OCR

LENGTH OF COURSE:

AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE HISTORY?

The strength of this subject is that it is so wide ranging. No area of human activity is irrelevant to it. Students trained in historical skills have something important to offer society and may themselves better understand the society in which they live. A training in History is designed to foster critical analysis, sharpness of judgement and the ability to present concise and lucid written arguments based on evidence. These qualities are appropriate to a wide range of careers including the Law, Civil Service, Accountancy, Teaching and the Media.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

AS

1. British History From Pitt to Peel 1783-1846
2. European History Period study The Unification of Italy 1815- 1870 (Source based unit)

A2

3. Historical Interpretations and Investigations (Coursework) Napoleon I 1795-1815
4. Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

A variety of teaching styles will be used throughout the course. These will range from group discussion to more formal teacher-led presentation. Note taking and note making are important skills, along with the ability to analyse source documentation. Essay writing has a major role in teacher and external assessment. Students are expected to read widely for all parts of the course. Personal research is a compulsory part of Unit 3.

The department is happy to accept students who have done well at GCSE, but have not studied History since Year 9.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

AS

Will be assessed in June of Year 12, with the possibility to re-sit in Year 13

A2

Unit 3 is internally assessed and externally moderated (course work)

Unit 4 will be assessed at the end of Year 13

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mr Cowie**

COURSE:

Government and Politics, AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:

OCR

LENGTH OF COURSE:

AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS?

This course helps to develop a critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes. Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of the structure of authority and power with in the political system of the United Kingdom (and other countries), and of the government and politics, and of the rights and responsibilities of individuals. This is a challenging subject which will provide opportunities for progression into higher education, or directly into employment. No previous study of the subject is required.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

AS

1. Contemporary Politics of the UK
2. Contemporary Government of the UK

A2

3. Contemporary US Government and Politics
4. Comparisons of UK, US and European political systems

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

"Politics is relevant to pretty much every aspect of modern life, as such it is a wholly engaging and relevant qualification with regard to all walks of life - no matter what your chosen career may be". ***Michael Hall***

"If you like to debate, you'll like politics". ***Jake Kelly***

"It is really interesting and gives you good opportunities such as visits and a trip to the BBC. It also looks good on your CV". ***Sophie Spokes***

"Really interesting, good trips, such as a visit to the BBC studios and a visit by a Lib Dem Councillor and a Green Party MP". ***Natasha Sheils***

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

There will be a variety of teaching and learning styles, but assessment, both internal and external, will be predominantly through essay writing. Students will be expected to read widely. This is particularly important for Module 4, where knowledge of current affairs is vital.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

AS

Assessed in June of Year 12, with the possibility of resits in Year 13

A2

Assessed in June of Year 13

OUTSTANDING IN EVERYTHING WE DO

GEOGRAPHY

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Miss Sim**

COURSE:
Geography AS and A2 Level

EXAMINING BOARD:
AQA

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE GEOGRAPHY?

Advanced Level Geography is designed to develop the knowledge and skills gained by students during their GCSE Geography. It will suit those who wish to develop an understanding of the links between people and their environments, and all the opportunities and challenges which face people in different places. The course also aims to help students acquire and apply a range of geographical and transferable skills, which will serve them well in the world of work or study. Students have used their Geography to gain success in a wide range of university courses and those entering the world of work and training leave with a good view of how the wider world is developing.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

You will study core geographical concepts along with contrasting themes of contemporary or environmental impact, management and sustainability. In Year 12 (AS Level) students will study Rivers and Coastal environments for the physical unit. Population change and Health issues are studied for the human unit. There is no longer any formal course work to complete, but there will still be the annual field trip to Keswick. In Year 13 (A2 Level) there are a range of physical and human topics including Plate tectonics and hazards, Ecosystems, Development, Globalisation, and Contemporary conflicts.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

Students will be taught by two teachers, dividing the physical and human topics throughout the course. The main features of the AS and the A2 Course are supported by texts which are approved by the examining board. In class there will be a mixture of teacher led work, class discussion, role-play and research. Students will be expected to maintain class notes, hand in essays on a regular basis and be prepared to put in work in private study. The school Resources Centre can be used for access to a wide variety of materials as well as the Internet. The most successful students are those who have already leant to extend their knowledge and understanding without being prompted.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Year 12

Unit 1 (Physical + Human Geography) = 2 hour exam (consisting of 4 taught topics from Yr 12)

Unit 2 (Geographical Skills) = 1 hour exam based on content of Unit 1 but including investigative, cartographic, graphical, statistical and ICT skills which will be covered in teaching of units 1 + 2

Both units are sat at the end of Year 12.

Year 13

Unit 3 (Contemporary Geographical Issues) = 2½ hour exam (consisting of all taught topics from Yr 13)

Unit 4A (Geography Field Work Investigation) = 1½ hour exam based on fieldwork skills and data interpretation.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES / PHILOSOPHY

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Miss A. Ellis**

COURSE:
Religious Studies / Philosophy AS and A2 Level

EXAMINING BOARD:
AQA

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

The philosophical and religious development of mankind has shaped the way the individual thinks and acts and the way in which cultures and society have been formed. We explore the greatest intellectual challenges man has to face, an understanding of these challenges helps us in our own development but it also helps us to understand our history, arts and society. The subject can be followed at university level but the qualification is also recognised and respected in many professions.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

AS

Ethics
- Utilitarianism
- Situation Ethics
- The nature and value of human life
- Abortion and Euthanasia

Philosophy of Religion
- The cosmological argument
- Religious Experience
- Psychology of Religion
- Atheism and Postmodernism

A2

Introduction of Religious Experience
- What is a religious experience?
- The influence of religious experience
- Religious experience as a source for faith
- The verification of religious experience

Philosophy of Religion
- The ontological argument
- Religious language
- Body, soul and personal identity
- The problem of evil

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

A variety of teaching styles will be used throughout the course. These will range from group discussion to the more formal teacher-led presentation. Given the modular nature of the course, a high level of commitment is expected from the start of the course. Note taking and note making are important skills. Essay writing has a major role in teacher and external assessment. Students are expected to read widely for all parts of the course. The department is happy to accept students who have done well at GCSE.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

AS

Assessed in January and June.

A2

Assessed at the end of Year 13. There is no coursework element to this course.

ECONOMICS

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Miss Morton**

COURSE:
Economics AS and A2 Level

EXAMINING BOARD:
AQA

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE ECONOMICS?

We are living in exciting economic times. After 16 years of growth, the UK economy has, like other Western economies, been plunged into a recession from which it is struggling to recover. There have been many social and political consequences with unemployment rising and unprecedented cuts to government spending. The study of economics helps us to understand the world in which we live, giving insight into the impact of developments in business, society and the global economy. The course will provide you with many transferable skills, including critical and logical thought, as well as a broad span of knowledge that is useful in many occupations, highly regarded by employers and higher education institutions and is particularly relevant in today's current economic climate. Economics complements almost any A level subject choice. It will prove particularly helpful to those seeking employment or higher education in business management, accountancy and finance.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The course is based on four modules. The modules are evenly split between microeconomics and macroeconomics. The former focuses on the decisions and activities of individuals and firms, while the latter focuses on the wider economy and national and global issues. Two will be studied in Year 12, comprising an AS level. A further two modules will be studied in Year 13 making up the A level qualification.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

A variety of teaching techniques will be used during the course. These will include group discussions, individual or small group presentations in class and more formal teacher-led work. Opportunities also exist to use ICT to investigate economic performance, research concepts and consolidate and apply learning in the management of the virtual economy.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

The modular syllabus allows you to choose economics at AS or A2 Level.

Year 12 (AS Level)

1. Markets and Market Failure (50% of AS)

Multiple choice questions and one multi-part data response question.

2. The National Economy (50% of AS)

Multiple choice questions and one multi-part data response question.

Year 13 (A2 Level)

3. Business Economics and the Distribution of Income (50% of A2)

One multi-part data response question set in a global or European Union context, and one essay question.

4. The National and International Economy (50% of A2)

One multi-part data response question set in a global or European Union context, and one essay question The AS modules are designed to develop knowledge and understanding of economic concepts and theories, which are developed and critically applied to more real world situations at A2 level.

SPORT & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mr McConway**

COURSE:
Physical Education
AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:
AQA

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE PE A LEVEL?

If you enjoy participating, officiating, coaching or even just watching sport or physical activity, then you will find this course very attractive and suited to your interests. It combines elements of participation, coaching or officiating with theoretical sporting knowledge and concepts. It is recognised by all universities as an academic A level and is a prerequisite qualification for studying most PE and sport related courses in higher education.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

There are 4 units, the first two of which are studied in Year 12 and lead to an AS qualification. Units 3 and 4 will then be studied in Year 13 and will lead to a full A level qualification.

UNIT 1 -
Opportunities for and the effects of leading a healthy and active lifestyle. This unit explores theoretical concepts of Applied Exercise Physiology, Skill Acquisition and Opportunities for Participation. It is assessed through a 2 hour exam.

UNIT 2 -
Analysis and evaluation of physical activity as a performer and/or in an adopted role. You will be required to take on two different roles in a sport of your choice. You can be a performer, an official or a coach and will be practically assessed in each role.

UNIT 3 -
Optimising performance and evaluating contemporary issues within sport. This unit explores theoretical concepts of Applied Physiology, Psychology and Contemporary Issues and investigated how each concept can lead to optimal sporting performance. It is assessed through a 2 hour exam.

UNIT 4 -
Optimising practical performance. You will be required to use the experiences gained in Unit 2 and strive to optimise your performance further in one of your nominated roles. This unit will be assessed by both written coursework and practical demonstration in a competitive environment.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Regular progress tests are given during each theoretical module and mock exams take place in line with school policy. Informal practical assessments will be carried out on an ongoing basis, culminating in a final moderation.

BTEC SPORT

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mr McConway**

COURSE:

BTEC Diploma in Sport (2 A levels)

BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport (3 A levels)

EXAMINING BOARD:

EdExcel

LENGTH OF COURSE:

2 years

IS THE BTEC IN SPORT THE COURSE FOR YOU?

The BTEC in Sport provides an introduction to the sports sector for students interested in pursuing a career in sport, within one of its occupational areas. These areas include careers in exercise and fitness, coaching, sports development and the outdoors. The BTEC in Sport will give you a solid foundation in the sector, enabling you to develop essential skills required for gaining employment, helping career progression, or progressing to further education and training required to secure your goals. The majority of universities accept BTEC qualifications.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

The BTEC Sport course has no externally set exams. Instead, you will be assessed in a variety of ways including practical work, presentations, case studies and other written formats. The assement for each unit is marked at Pass (E), Merit (C) and Distinction (A) level. If you get sufficient distinctions then you can achieve a Distinction* (A*) overall.

Year 12 units

1 – The Body in Action

2 – Health and Safety in Sport

3 – Training and Fitness for Sport

Units 7/8 – Practical Team and Individual Sports

9 – Outdoor Activities

12 – Leadership in Sport

Year 13 units

4 – Sports Coaching

6 – Fitness Testing for Sport

Units 7/8 – Practical Team and Individual Sports

16 – Psychology for Sports Performance

17 – Sports Injuries

25 – Work Based Experience

Additional units studied across Years 12 and 13 for those doing the extended diploma

11 – Sports Nutrition

13 – Exercise and Healthy Lifestyle

15 – Instructing Physical Activity

16 – Exercise for Specific Groups

22 – Roles, Regulations & Officiating in Sport

24 – Physical Education and the Care of Children & Young People

BTEC PERFORMING ARTS – DANCE SPECIALISM

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mrs Gray**

COURSE:

Level 3 BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts (Dance)

EXAMINING BOARD:

EdExcel

LENGTH OF COURSE:

AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE BTEC DANCE?

This course is ideal for students who enjoy dance and performance based activities. Students will get the opportunity to learn about the theoretical aspects of dance, work on their technique, experience different dance styles and study professional works.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

There are 6 units which will be completed over the 2 years.

- The Healthy Performer
- Choreographic Principles
- Performing to an Audience
- Dance Performance
- Developing Contemporary dance Technique
- Applying Contemporary Technique

All students will be given performance opportunities during the 2 year course.

Students who perform well at the end of Year 12 and complete sufficient extra-curricular dance shows may be able to achieve a BTEC Diploma (90) worth 1½ A-levels.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

A variety of teaching styles will be used throughout the course. These will range in style from formal teacher-led lessons to individual sessions in composition and performance skills. You will be required to write essays based on the work studied.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

For each module you study, you will be given a grade of either Pass, Merit or Distinction. There is also the opportunity for students to complete the Certificate in Performing Arts (Dance). This is the AS equivalent and can be completed over one year. This would involve the completion of three units. Students participating in the school musical could count that as one of their three units.

MUSIC

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mr. Griffiths**

COURSE:
Music AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:
AQA

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE MUSIC A LEVEL?

The study of music is designed to develop your creative skills through performing and composing. It also gives you a broad perspective of the subject, studying a variety of styles of music from a number of different periods.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

AS

- Listening: The Western Classical Tradition (compulsory)
- Choice: - Choral Music in the Baroque Period - Music Theatre: a study of the musical from 1940-1980 - British Popular Music from 1960 to the present day
- Composition: Techniques - Free composition or pastiche in response to a given brief/ Arranging
- Performing: Solo and/or ensemble performances/ Technology-based performances.

A2

- Listening: The Western Classical Tradition (compulsory)
- Choice English Choral Music in the 20th Century/Chamber Music from Mendelssohn to Debussy/ Four Decades of Jazz and Blues (1910- 1950).
- Composition: Techniques/Free composition or pastiche in response to a chosen brief/arranging
- Performing: A choice of solo, acoustic and/or technology-based performances.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

A variety of styles will be used throughout the course. These will range from formal teacher-led lessons to individual sessions in composition and performance skills. You will be required to write essays based on the works studied.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

AS

Written Paper:
1 hour 45 minutes

Composing:
Externally assessed

Performing:
10-16 minutes internally assessed

A2

Written Paper:
2 hours 15 minutes 100 marks

Composing:
Externally assessed

Performing:
15 minutes externally assessed

BIOLOGY

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mrs. Dennison**

COURSE:
Biology AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:
AQA

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE BIOLOGY?

This is an interesting and well established sixth form subject having been taught at Whickham for many years. The course is designed to build on attainment at GCSE and provides for the needs of students who will progress to higher education and also those who may go directly into employment. Whilst many students combine biology and other sciences, students studying different subjects including geography, sociology, economics and psychology will find it an excellent 'mixer' acting as a bridge between science and a diversity of other curriculum areas. In higher education, many of our former students have gone on to study biological and other sciences at university; courses have included medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, nursing, medical physics, environmental sciences, genetics, and biotechnology. Offers for places on these courses vary, but generally students from Whickham have achieved higher grades than the minimum required.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Year 12 Modules (AS)

Unit 1 Biology and Disease - Human physiology and response to disease

Unit 2 Variety of Living Organisms, Biological Molecules, DNA, mass transport, Classification and Biodiversity

Unit 3 Investigative and Practical Skills - Investigation of biological problems, implementation of practical skills and processing of raw data.

Year 13 Modules (A2)

Unit 4 Populations and Environment - Photosynthesis, respiration, energy and Variety

Unit 5 Control in Cells and in Organisms - Muscles, nerves, hormones, genes, mutations and cloning

Unit 6 Investigation and Practical Skills (A2). Practical investigation and follow up work. The course is underpinned by 'how science works' which aims to give students an understanding of how scientist investigate and scientific phenomena.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

Work in lessons includes formal teaching, discussions, and practical investigations. You are most likely to succeed if you have grade Bs in maths, English and science at GCSE and a good spread of other GCSE passes in the A* to C range.
You need to be prepared to spend about 4 hours per week outside of lessons on assignments, and more in Year 13. During this time you will be asked to prepare work, write up notes, research topics and write up reports from investigations. In addition you will have to learn and revise the work thoroughly as you go along. Recent visits organised during the course have included advanced practical investigations at the Centre for Life, and additional outings to the Farne Islands, Kielder, as well as workshops and lectures at local universities.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Progress is monitored through a series of internal tests, marks for written assignments and practical reports. Formal modular tests are set by AQA in January and June and course work has to be handed in for both AS and A2. Although there is no big end of course exam, there are some general synoptic questions in the last year. You can resit the module tests once if need be, but you must remember that when the next cycle of tests comes round you will also have new work to learn.
We will also expect you to attend revision lessons.

OUTSTANDING IN EVERYTHING WE DO

CHEMISTRY

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mr Burt**

COURSE:
Chemistry AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:
OCR

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE CHEMISTRY?

The A-level chemistry course is designed to build upon knowledge and understanding from GCSE. Studying chemistry helps to develop problem solving, analytical and evaluative skills. It is an important subject for students who wish to go to university to study medicine, biochemistry or engineering related subject areas. Students will study a variety of topics, building on the periodic table, moles , structure and bonding, equilibrium and rates of reaction.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Year 12 Modules (AS)

Unit 1:
Atoms, Bonds and Groups (30%)

Unit 2:
Chains, Energy and Resources (50%)

Unit 3:
Practical Skills in Chemistry 1 (20%)

Year 13 Modules (A2)

Unit 4:
Rates, equilibrium and pH (30%)

Unit 5:
Equilibria, Energetics and Elements (50%)

Unit 6:
Practical skills in Chemistry 2 (20%)

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

Chemistry lessons are taught using a variety of different techniques. These include formal teaching, group discussion, independent study and practical investigations. You will be expected to take a significant role in your own learning both inside and outside the classroom.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

The first two units in each year are written papers. In Year 12 these are assessed at the end of the course. In Year 13 the first unit is assessed in January and the second in June. Unit 3 and Unit 6 are practical assessments. These assessments take place during the year and aim to assess qualitative, quantitative and evaluative skills.

PHYSICS

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Miss H Forster**

COURSE:
Physics AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:
AQA

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE PHYSICS?

We're all born with an urge to understand the world around us. This leads us to ask questions such as 'How does TV work ?', 'Why does the sun shine?', 'What is light?', 'What are the ultimate constituents of matter?', 'How did the universe begin?'. If you find that the more answers you discover, the more questions you want to ask, then you are on the road to becoming a physicist. One of the key ideas in physics is that, behind the complexity of the world around us, there is an underlying simplicity and unity in nature. This is often expressed through all-embracing fundamental concepts, such as the principle of energy conservation. These concepts supported by mathematical analysis provide explanations for how things happen. As well as being interesting and useful in its own right, physics forms an important part of Higher Education requirements for engineering degrees, astronomy, astrophysics, maths, electronics, geophysics, meteorology, material science and communications. A major aim of the course is to develop and stimulate the interest shown in the physics modules of GCSE Science.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Year 12 – Units 1-3
Year 13 – Units 4-6

Unit 1 -
The nucleus incorporating the quark model - Quantum Physics – Electricity

Unit 2 -
Mechanics - Properties of Materials - Waves
(Refraction/Diffraction/ Interference)

Unit 3 -
Analysis and Practical Skills

Unit 4 -
Further Mechanics including momentum, circular motion and simple harmonic motion

Unit 5 -
Nuclear and Thermal Physics and optional topic.

Unit 6 -
Analysis and Practical Skills

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

Physics lessons comprise a variety of learning activities including formal teaching, discussions, practical investigations and problem solving activities. We seek to develop skills such as the ability to interpret scientific data, to be organised, to be thorough and accurate in carrying out experiments and be able to express ideas clearly using correct scientific terminology. Students are most likely to be successful in A level Physics if they have already obtained Grade Bs in GCSE Science, Mathematics and English.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

External assessment is by modular tests taken at intervals throughout the course. There are opportunities to resit modules to improve grades. Practical investigations are carried out and assessed during each year.

PSYCHOLOGY

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Miss Harvey**

COURSE:
Psychology AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:
AQA

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE PSYCHOLOGY?

The study of psychology confers many benefits on students.

- It combines well with many subjects complementing and enhancing them eg. biology, maths, English language, sociology.
- It is a subject welcomed by many employers, particularly in the caring and service industries.
- It can lead, via a degree course, to careers as varied as child guidance, educational psychology, occupational psychology, legal psychology etc.
- It gives a valuable insight into personal development (eg. moral, cognitive, linguistic) and development of behaviour within groups and in society.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Year 12 comprises of Units 1 and 2. Year 13 comprises of Units 3 and 4.

Unit 1 – Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology and Research Methods in Psychology
You will study: Cognitive Psychology – memory eyewitness testimony. Developmental Psychology – including early social development the development and variety of attachments and the effects of day-care on a developing child. Research Methods – in the context of these topic areas. Assessment: May or June. Structured compulsory questions on all elements of cognitive psychology, developmental psychology and research methods. Time – 1 hour 30 minutes (50% of AS, 25% of A level).

Unit 2 – Biological Psychology, Social Psychology and Individual Differences
You will study: Biological Psychology – including stress and stressors. Coping with stress and stress management. Social Psychology – social influence, majority and minority influence, conformity, obedience and independent behaviour. Individual Differences – including differences of abnormality approaches and therapies. Assessment: May or June. Three compulsory structured questions from biological psychology, one from social psychology and one from individual differences. Time – 1 hour 30 minutes (50% of AS, 25% of A level).

Unit 3 – Biological rhythms and sleep Relationships Aggression
Assessment: Three essay questions. Time – 1 hour 30 minutes (25% of A level)

Unit 4 – Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods
Topics here include the many and varied approaches used to understand psychology, a comparison of such approaches, debates in psychology, methods in psychology, inferential statistics and issues in research. Assessment: One essay style question in Psychopathology (Schizophrenia), a further essay question from Psychology in Action (Anomalistic Psychology) and one compulsory structured question in Research Methods. Time – 2 hours (25% of A level)

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

A wide variety of teaching methods will be used and the emphasis will be on student centred learning. You will be required to actively participate in group work as well as work on your own initiative. There will also be opportunities to attend conferences given by leading psychologists and the AQA exam board.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Internal assessment is via essays, topic tests and internal exams. External assessment is via exams.

APPLIED SCIENCE

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Dr Simpson**

COURSE:
Applied Science

EXAMINING BOARD:
TBC

LENGTH OF COURSE:
1 or 2 years

WHY CHOOSE APPLIED SCIENCE?

This popular and successful course is often chosen by students who would like a science course that will help them with employment in nursing/technology or science based industries. The course has a significant portfolio/coursework content and would suit students who enjoy science but find written exams more challenging.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Students learn a variety of key scientific concepts including health and safety, how science is used in the workplace and key scientific techniques.

There is currently a review of the exam board that we intend to use for Applied Science and whether or not the course will be an applied A-level or BTEC. While the content of all courses are fairly similar the exact content will be determined by the exam board chosen.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

Students will be taught by 3 different teachers – 1 for each of the main assessment units. Lessons will contain both teacher and student lead material. There is a significant emphasis on problem solving and acquiring scientific and technical skills. Given the nature of this course students will often be working independently to produce portfolio/coursework.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Whichever exam board is chosen a minimum of 60% of the course will be assessed by coursework/ portfolio work.

MATHEMATICS

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mr Smith**

COURSE:
Mathematics AS or A2

EXAMINING BOARD:
OCR

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics is a powerful, concise and unambiguous means of communication, which crosses language barriers. It helps develop logical thought and accuracy. As a "service subject" it is invaluable, being essential to the study of many subjects. It is a major qualification in the eyes of higher education and employers. It is strongly recommended that students who intend to study mathematics at advanced level should study higher level GCSE in year 11.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Students will study six modules over two years, four in Pure Mathematics and two in Applied Mathematics; usually Statistics and Decision Maths. The AS comprises two pure modules and one applied module.

The broad areas of study are:

PURE:
Algebra, Trigonometry, Co ordinate Geometry, Calculus, Proof, Functions, Indices and Logarithms, Sequences, Numerical Methods, Vectors and Parametric Equations

STATISTICS:
Data Analysis, Probability, Sampling, the Binomial Distribution and Hypothesis Testing.

DECISION MATHEMATICS:
Graphs, Networks, Linear Programming, Critical Path Analysis and Simulation.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

Students in Year 12 will be taught by two teachers. Lessons will mainly be teacher led and students will be expected to do follow up work after each lesson. Consistent work outside lessons is essential, the ability of students to reinforce ideas and techniques developed in lessons by way of individual work is very important. Homework assignments are usually problem-solving exercises. There will be a textbook to accompany each module.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Progress is closely monitored through homework assignments. Each module is examined by a written paper lasting 90 minutes, with all modules having an equal weighting towards the certification. There is a coursework component in the A2 Pure Mathematics modules.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mr. Smith**

COURSE:
Further Mathematics AS

EXAMINING BOARD:
OCR

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year

WHY CHOOSE FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

When combined with A level mathematics, further mathematics allows students to investigate the subject in greater depth and breadth. Most students find that A level further mathematics provides a valuable basis for the first year of a degree in mathematics, with many undergraduates having at least AS further mathematics

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Pure mathematics is taken beyond the 'service subject' core, with possible modules in Mechanics, Statistics, and Decision Mathematics as well as Numerical methods. In addition to the Mathematics course, students will study six more modules over two years. The broad areas of study are: complex numbers; curve sketching; matrices; polar co-ordinates; hyperbolic functions; work; energy and power; impulse and momentum; centre of mass; the Poisson distribution; the normal distribution; bivariate data; numerical methods; decision analysis, logic and the simplex method

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

The subject is taught separately from mathematics, although some topics require previous knowledge from the single subject. Students will be taught by two teachers. The majority of lessons will involve notes, examples and discussion, with students expected to undertake individual research and background reading. You will acquire problem-solving skills and develop your interest in the subject beyond the syllabus.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Progress is closely monitored by the homework assignments set each week. Each module is examined by a written paper lasting 90 minutes, with all modules having equal weighting towards the certification. There is a coursework component in the Numerical methods module. AS Mathematics and AS Further Mathematics are both completed in Year 12.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mr Crosland**

COURSE:
English Language AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:
AQA

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

Do you want to learn how a child, within just a few years, progresses from being unable to speak or understand to acquiring the ability to communicate and comprehend? Are you interested in discovering the real differences in the speech styles of men and women and how language can be used to influence or even control peoples' views and mindsets? Do you enjoy creative writing, experimenting with different genres, editing and redrafting to a publishable standard? English Language has gained a reputation for being a subject highly regarded by higher education providers and employers alike and could be the A Level you are looking for. A good qualification in this subject is excellent evidence that you can communicate clearly and effectively, in both writing and speech. It is a fascinating subject, accepted for entry to a wide range of degree courses. You learn about how language works – its structure, sounds and implicit meanings – and how it is used in society. The skills of observation, analysis and argument, which you will develop through this course, provide invaluable bridges to further subjects such as law, journalism, teaching, speech therapy, sociology, business studies and advertising.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Language is rich and colourful and fascinating to explore. Naturally you will learn about some of its technical features including grammar but you will also study language theories. At AS you will analyse a range of texts and explore how language functions in society. You will produce a coursework folder of your own writing. For A2 you will develop editorial skills and explore language development. You will complete your own language investigation for coursework.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

Teaching methods on this course vary, but there is a strong emphasis on group discussion. You must be prepared to work hard, think for yourself and become involved in seminar activities. You should have a keen interest in language because you already enjoy both reading and writing. You must be able to meet deadlines and be self-disciplined enough to organise your own time and work. Independent coursework makes a significant contribution to your overall grade and you must take the initiative to pursue your own writing and research interests.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

AS Level – two modules:

Unit 1 –
Categorising Texts (exam): Text Varieties and Language and Social Contexts (30%)

Unit 2 –
Creating Texts (course work): Two pieces of original writing and two commentaries (20%)

A2 Level – two modules:

Unit 3 –
Developing Language (exam): Language Acquisition and Language Change (30%)

Unit 4 –
Investigating Language (course work): Written investigation and a Media Text (20%)

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mr Crosland**

COURSE:
English Literature AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:
AQA

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE ENGLISH LITERATURE?

How jealous would you be if you thought that your lover had been unfaithful? (Othello) What would you do if your uncle killed your father and married your mother? (Hamlet) What is the link between opium addiction and sailing? (The Rime of the Ancient Mariner) English Literature is a highly regarded qualification and can lead you into many areas such as law, journalism and education. You will develop critical skills, learn to write incisively and critically evaluate a wide range of cultural values.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

If you enjoy reading and discussing novels, plays and poetry then you will love studying English Literature. Our course begins with an intensive study of the modern novel, examining the eternal human themes of love, lust, death and humour. You will discover much about texts, but also much about your own values. You will encounter Gothic landscapes, lonely moors and passionate nymphs. Your understanding of the world may change forever.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

At the heart of this course is the belief that all opinions are valid and so you will find many opportunities to discuss ideas in an informal, productive learning environment – Year 13 students can often be found wrestling with trochaic pentameter over a cup of coffee; Year 12 students are to be found in the theatres of England, devouring the works of Shakespeare. We expect our students to be thoughtful, industrious and committed.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

AS Level – two modules:

Unit 1 –
Aspects of Narrative (exam): (30%)

Unit 2 –
Dramatic Genres (course work): (20%)

A2 level - two modules:

Unit 3 –
Texts and Genres (exam): (30%)

Unit 4 –
Further and Independent Reading (course work): (20%)

BTEC PERFORMING ARTS – ACTING SPECIALISM

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mr A. Pickering**

COURSE:

BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts (Acting)

EXAMINING BOARD:

EdExcel

LENGTH OF COURSE:

AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE BTEC ACTING?

BTEC Acting gives you the freedom to explore the possibilities of Drama through a practical approach that makes it all connect. Students will have the opportunity to really get stuck into styles, genres and theories in ways that can be realised and understood through practical application. The course aims to encourage the development of theory in practice - stimulating students to think imaginatively and analytically in unison, and inspiring them to take responsibility for their own projects. The skills learnt will equip students to continue through to Higher Education in performing arts courses - ranging from drama schools to established university courses; whilst also providing skills that would be valued by a range of other career and degree areas as diverse as: public relations, event management, teaching, communications, English and management.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

You will study six units, divided so that students can gain the equivalent of an AS after the first year (The BTEC Certificate in Performing Arts: Acting) These two are core units - you will do one in year 12, the other in year 13:

- Principles of Acting
- Performing to an Audience

Then we will choose another four from these units:

- Contemporary Theatre performance
- Classical Theatre performance
- Devising Plays
- Applying Acting Styles
- Developing voice for the Actor
- Developing Physical Theatre
- Auditions for Actors

Students who perform well at the end of Year 12 and complete sufficient extra-curricular shows may be able to achieve a BTEC Diploma worth 2 A levels.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

The course will mix a variety of teaching styles that will focus on a practical foundation. There will be group discussions, lectures, essays and evaluations, theatre visits, workshop explorations, research and ICT presentations. Students will need open minds and the capacity to organise their own time and work to deadlines. Students will be challenged to develop interpretive skills whilst actively realising these ideas in front of audiences.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

For each module you will be given a grade of either Pass, Merit or Distinction. Students participating in school productions (musical or play) will be able to count their work towards some of their units.

MEDIA STUDIES

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Miss Meldrum**

COURSE:

Media Studies AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:

WJEC

LENGTH OF COURSE:

AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE MEDIA STUDIES?

Are you interested in films? Would you like to become a TV presenter, cameraman, journalist or web-designer? Would you like to understand how a TV programme is made? Would you like to produce your own media text? Media Studies provides the opportunity to study a range of media texts and industries as well as developing practical skills. You can improve your communication skills and will be given the opportunity to use advanced modern technology such as digital video cameras and editing equipment. This qualification will prove useful in our world of global communications and will give you a greater understanding of the technology available to us today. It is an essential course to study if you are interested in a career in journalism, performing, marketing or radio and TV broadcasting - both in front of and behind the camera.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

During the course you will learn to read the moving image in order to appreciate how you make meanings from film and television. You will study a wide range of media texts, genres and industries. You will learn to understand how audiences receive and use media texts. You will be shown how media texts are constructed and produced and will put this knowledge to practical use by planning, researching and producing your own media texts.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

The course contains both academic study and practical work so teaching methods will vary. Independent course work is very significant so you must be able to meet deadlines and be self-disciplined enough to organise your own time and work. You must be prepared to work hard, think for yourself and carry out further reading and research activities. A mix of independent and group work; discussion; viewing lessons and practical lessons will make up the course.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

For AS there are two units:

Unit 1: Media Representation and Responses - written exam (50% of AS; 25% of A2)

Unit 2: Media Production Processes - course work (50% of AS; 25% of A2)

For A2 there are two further units:

Unit 3: Media Investigation and Production - course work (25% of A2)

Unit 4: Media - Text, Industry and Audience - written exam (25% of A2)

CREATIVE & MEDIA

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Miss McLeod**

COURSE:

Creative & Media (Principal Learning)

EXAMINING BOARD:

EdExcel

LENGTH OF COURSE:

2 years leading to the equivalent of 1½ A-Levels

WHY CHOOSE CREATIVE & MEDIA?

Creative & Media is made up of a number of exciting creative projects that will help you to understand the creative industry. You will:

- have the opportunity to produce a piece of creative work that interests you, for example a piece of art work, a photograph, a poem, a musical composition or a film
- be involved in planning and advertising an exhibition that will showcase yours and others' work
- work with your class to support a group of people to produce something creative
- work to a commission to produce a piece of work for someone else
- investigate the work of another creative practitioner to understand how they work in industry

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Unit 1 – Capture
Unit 2 – Show
Unit 3 – Interaction
Unit 4 – Commission
Unit 5 – Evaluation
Unit 6 – Investigation

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Work is set against the unit specifications described above. Units 1,2,3 and 4 are marked internally by your teachers and moderated by the exam board. Units 5 and 6 are externally assessed.

ART & DESIGN: TEXTILES

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Miss McLeod**

COURSE:

Art and Design: Textiles AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:

AQA

LENGTH OF COURSE:

AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE ART & DESIGN TEXTILES?

This A Level is a natural progression from GCSE Textiles and is for those students who have an interest in developing their textile skills.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

You will be taught a variety of textile processes and skills and will have the opportunity to experiment with these techniques to produce a range of samples. You will be given a theme or starting point to which you have to respond using the skills and processes learned. The study of other artists, craftspeople and designers will be an important aspect of your course. Your work will be presented in sketchbooks and on A1 presentation boards.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Year 1 – AS

Unit 1:
80 marks 50% weighting of total AS marks / 25% of total A level marks

Unit 2:
Externally set assignment - 80 marks 50% weighting of total AS marks / 25% of total A level marks For the externally set assignment, you select one of five starting points. You will produce preparatory work and a finished piece or pieces to fulfil the requirements of this unit.

Year 2 – A2

Unit 3:
Coursework - 80 marks 25% weighting of total A level marks Candidates will be required to support their personal investigation with 1000-3000 words.

Unit 4:
Externally set assignment 25% weighting of total A level marks For the externally set assignment, you select one of eight starting points. You will produce preparatory work and a finished piece or pieces to fulfil the requirements of this unit. 15 hours of this unit must be unaided, supervised time.

OUTSTANDING IN EVERYTHING WE DO

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mr. Miller**

COURSE:
D&T Product Design
AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:
EdExcel

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY?

Advanced GCE Design and Technology aims to provide an opportunity for students to develop their creativity, practical capability and entrepreneurial skills. Students will apply their knowledge and understanding to a range of technological activities and develop critical thinking and collaborative skills. The assessment for this course involves externally assessed examinations along with Design and Make projects. A qualification in this subject will open opportunities to pursue a career in Engineering, Graphic Design, Architecture, Interior Design, Manufacturing, motor vehicle and boat design.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Year 12:

Unit 1:
Portfolio of Creative Skills
(mark allocation: 90)

This unit is divided into three areas of study. You will submit one portfolio that contains evidence for all three sections.

- Product Investigation: Students are free to choose any appropriate product(s) that interest them for their product investigation, so long as there is the opportunity to develop skills in examining product performance, materials and components, product manufacture and quality issues.
- Product Design: When working on this section of Unit 1 students are not limited by manufacturing or materials constraints, as there is no requirement for designs to be carried forward into a manufactured product.
- Product Manufacture: Students have an opportunity to develop diverse practical skills through making more than one product, using a range of materials.

Unit 2:
Design and Technology in Practice
(mark allocation: 70)

Your knowledge and understanding of topics in this unit will be externally assessed through a 1 hour 30 minute examination paper set and marked by EdExcel. The exam paper will be in the form of a question and answer booklet consisting of short-answer and extended-writing type questions.

Year 13:

Unit 3:
Design for the Future
(mark allocation: 70)

In this unit you will develop your knowledge and understanding of a range of modern design and manufacturing practices whilst considering contemporary design issues. You will be assessed through a 2-hour exam. The exam paper will be in the form of a question and answer booklet consisting of short answer and extended-writing type questions.

Unit 4:
Commercial Design
(mark allocation: 90)

A full Design and Make activity, offering students the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have gained from their AS studies. The unit results in the development of an appropriate product supported by a design folder with appropriate research, analysis, testing and evaluation.

ART & DESIGN – FINE ART

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Miss Grant**

COURSE:
Art and Design:
Fine Art AS and A2

EXAMINING BOARD:
AQA

LENGTH OF COURSE:
AS 1 year, A2 2 years

WHY CHOOSE ART & DESIGN FINE ART?

This A Level is a natural progression from GCSE Fine Art and Art in general and is for those students who have an interest in developing their creative and artistic skills.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

You will be taught a variety of art based processes and skills and will have the opportunity to experiment with these techniques to produce a range of samples. You will work to a theme and develop ideas into a final outcome based on research you have collected. The study of artists and craftspeople will be an important aspect of your course. Your work will be presented in sketchbooks and on A1 presentation boards.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Year 1 – AS Level
Unit 1:
80 marks 50% weighting of total AS marks / 25% of total A level marks.

Unit 2:
Externally set assignment - 80 marks 50% weighting of total AS marks / 25% of total A level marks For the externally set assignment, you select one of five starting points. You will produce preparatory work and a finished piece or pieces to fulfil the requirements of this unit.

Year 2 – A2 Level
Unit 3:
Coursework - 80 marks 25% weighting of total A level marks Candidates will be required to support their personal investigation with 1000-3000 words.

Unit 4:
Externally set assignment 25% weighting of total A level marks For the externally set assignment, you select one of eight starting points. You will produce preparatory work and a finished piece or pieces to fulfil the requirements of this unit. 15 hours of this unit must be unaided, supervised time.

BTEC ART & DESIGN

Overview

Course Leader and contact for this course: **Mrs Dowinton**

COURSE:

BTEC Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma in Art & Design

EXAMINING BOARD:

EdExcel

LENGTH OF COURSE:

1 or 2 years

WHY CHOOSE ART & DESIGN?

You will be provided with opportunities to develop a broad range of art and design skills, which are closely linked to the real life work of artists and designers.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

All aspects of art and design with specialist teachers in areas of drawing, painting, photography, 3D work, computers and textiles.

HOW WILL YOU BE TAUGHT?

A student centred approach to study is adopted throughout the course with the emphasis firmly on the student to develop their own skills in areas of work supported and facilitated by specialist staff. Planning, problem solving and self monitoring are an integral part of the course.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

The work is set against specific criteria and unit specifications. Each assignment will meet some of the criteria for more than one unit. Completing all assignments will create a portfolio of work, which meets all the criteria at the final assessment; this takes place at the end of the course in May. The Diploma is equivalent to 2 A level and the Subsidiary Diploma to 1 A level.

Students who perform exceptionally well in Year 12 may have the opportunity to study additional topics in Year 13 and complete more units allowing them to obtain an Extended Diploma worth the equivalent of three A-levels.

ADDITIONAL STUDIES PROGRAMME

Overview

Whickham Sixth Form

In order to complement their main study programme and to help build their academic skills all students choose 1 additional studies option.

GENERAL STUDIES

COURSE: 1 Year AS
COURSE LEADER: Miss Harvey

General Studies is a useful preparation in several respects for higher education:

- It deals with broader considerations than those arising from specialist subjects
- It focuses strongly on key issues in the contemporary world
- It highlights cross-curricular implications
- It has a wider range of subject matter than most students encounter in post-16 study
- It helps to enhance a range of skills which are particularly valued only at A level but also for the requirements of Higher Education.

A survey of admissions officers included the following positive and informed perceptions of General Studies, derived from an appraisal of undergraduates who had the subject as one of their A levels: "....above all a test of independent learning" "....indicators of general academic ability in a variety of areas, involving multidisciplinary topics, which suits the first year requirements of our degree course" It is often the case that General Studies provides what, according to some admissions tutors, too many students lack – accumulated knowledge, experience and skills on an extensive basis.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

COURSE: 1 Year ½A2
COURSE LEADER: Miss Harvey

Students will have the opportunity to focus on a topic that is of particular interest to them. This is likely to be in an area that can enable the student to undertake a project that will lead to in depth knowledge and understanding of a particular issue or subject e.g. A student who wants to apply for medicine at university may undertake an extended project in a particular aspect of medicine.

Assessment is through a completed production log, report and presentation. The report can either be 5000 words in length or 1000 words if a journal, Power Point presentation, set of photographs, artefact or DVD of a performance is submitted.

OUTSTANDING IN EVERYTHING WE DO

ADDITIONAL STUDIES PROGRAMME

Overview

In order to complement their main study programme and to help build their academic skills all students choose 1 additional studies option.

Whickham Sixth Form

CRITICAL THINKING

COURSE: 1 Year AS
COURSE LEADER: Miss Harvey

Critical Thinking helps learners develop skills of analysis and evaluation, communication and problem solving. It also develops the capacity for methodical and critical thought which will serve as an end in itself as well as a basis for further study. These skills are of great benefit to learners in all subject areas, from arts and humanities to sciences and mathematics. Academic research (Higgins et al, 2004) shows that the core skills taught in Critical Thinking can be transferred to other subjects. The same set of skills is also required for study at Higher Education level. Critical Thinking provides opportunities for learners to think deeply and in a structured way about key issues in society. Learners will find Critical Thinking highly beneficial in preparation for a wide range of careers, including the fields of law, academic research (e.g. in the disciplines of science, arts or humanities), social science, journalism, medicine, business, accounting and engineering.

RESIT ENGLISH & MATHS

COURSE: 1 Year GCSE resit
COURSE LEADER: English: Mr Crosland, Maths: Mr Boyle

All students who have not obtained a C grade in either or both of English and Maths resit these subjects as their Additional Studies option.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Overview

In addition to their academic studies all students take an enrichment option. These options allow students to develop their skills in other areas to their main academic studies. Some of these options lead to further qualifications while others allow students the chance to do something different to their main studies.

All enrichment options will run subject to their being sufficient numbers wanting to do each option.

Whickham Sixth Form

SPORTS LEADERS AWARD

(compulsory for A-level PE or BTEC Sports students)

Students can build on existing leadership skills through work with younger primary students in a sporting environment. Students will volunteer in sporting events in roles such as coaches, officials and administrators. This option can be followed through at a higher level into year 13 and if completed carries points for university applications.
For more information visit: www.sportsleaders.co.uk
Course Leader: Mr McConway

GCSE SPANISH

For students who enjoy languages and would like the flexibility of having studied an additional language we offer GCSE Spanish in a year. The course will be delivered during enrichment time and 2 additional after school sessions. The course is intensive and students must be committed.
Course Leader: Miss Chailloix

DEBATING

For students who would like to further develop their speaking and debating skills. As well as practise within school students have the opportunity to take part in competitive debating with other schools in competitions.
Course Leaders: Mr Crosland and Miss Ross

DRAMA

This is an opportunity for those in the sixth form to explore performance and technical drama skills in an informal situation, with the potential to lead to performances and events. It is open to new students with an interest in developing new skills, keeping their hand-in with previous studies, or even those studying the subject who would like further practise.
Course Leader: Mr A. Pickering

OUTSTANDING IN EVERYTHING WE DO

In addition to their academic studies all students take an enrichment option. These options allow students to develop their skills in other areas to their main academic studies. Some of these options lead to further qualifications while others allow students the chance to do something different to their main studies.

All enrichment options will run subject to their being sufficient numbers wanting to do each option.

VOLUNTARY WORK/WORK EXPERIENCE

(highly recommended for BTEC Health and Social Care Students as it can be accredited as part of their qualification)

Going out into the world of work can be a very beneficial experience. Some university courses will require you to have done a certain number of days of work experience before you can start. For some university courses it can also make your application more competitive.
Course Leader: Mrs Dowling

RECREATIONAL PE

Recreational PE can be a valuable break from the stresses and demand of academic study. We offer a variety of sporting options for students to choose from. In previous years this has included: Pilates, Football, Tag rugby, Gym and Tennis. The options are tailored to the interests of the students.
Course Leader: Mrs Morrell

DANCE LEADERS AWARD and ARTS LEADERS AWARD

For students who have a talent in either Dance or Art who would like to develop their leadership skills through work with younger student
Course Leader: Dance: Mrs Gray, Art: Miss H. Cole

PHILOSOPHY

For students who would like an opportunity to explore key themes and philosophical concepts we offer Philosophy. Students will be able to develop their ability to reason, form their own judgements, express themselves coherently and contribute to the process of debate. Depending on the numbers and interests of the students who choose philosophy this option could lead to a qualification.
Course Leader: Miss. A. Ellis

THE INFORMATION EVENINGS (11th AND 19th JANUARY 2012)

The annual parent/student conference for present Year 11 students and external applicants is held in January. There are two evenings with different focuses. On 11th January, 7.00pm in the Main Hall, the Head Teacher and Head of Sixth Form will give an introduction to what is available in the Sixth Form. On the 19January (4.00pm - 6.00pm in the Main Hall) parents and students will have the opportunity to talk to subject teachers in an informal setting.

SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE MEETINGS (FEBRUARY 2012)

All Year 11 students are given an individual support and guidance meeting, accompanied by their parents, to allow them to raise personal queries and make an informed provisional choice of subjects. External candidates are offered the same support and will have a meeting with the Head Teacher or Head of Sixth Form.

JULY INDUCTION MORNING

Immediately after the GCSE examinations there is a last get-together for prospective Sixth Form students, where arrangements for enrolments and final timetable amendments are discussed. This event ends in a buffet lunch where students are able to meet their tutors and senior staff in an informal atmosphere before departing for their well earned summer holidays.

REGISTRATION

Initially students have an interview and state their provisional intentions. This enables us to plan ahead, knowing the likely number of students wanting to do each course. We do however understand that often when results are known plans can change and you can do this by meeting members of the sixth form team and explaining your decision. Enrolment takes place on Friday 24th August 2012, the day after GCSE results day, in the Sixth Form between 10.00am and 12.00pm.

Students not currently at Whickham School can obtain further information by contacting Mr Wheatley, Head of Sixth Form (0191 496 0026 ext 338) or the school office.