



Prince Henry's Grammar School
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST



Key Stage 4 OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Additional information

2026 - 2028

Subject: Art (GCSE)

Faculty: Art & Design

Area Leader: Mrs Prince

Course Content:

In Art you will work in many different mediums including; watercolour, acrylic and oil painting, drawing, etching, printing, photography, mixed media, textile batik and ceramics. You will also develop your ability to create an idea by designing personal and unique outcomes. This will enable you to creatively problem solve and practice independent decision-making skills. You will research a breadth of artistic contexts, analytical and communication skills through the creation and maintenance of your own portfolio to record and evidence your work. The artists explored will be enhanced through residential trips to galleries and museums.

Year 10 & 11 projects

1. **Heads** - Investigation into the theme of portraiture. You will learn about artists who have created a range of portraits and how they have used different mediums. Using this knowledge, you will develop your own personal response using oil paint, printing and drawing materials. Within this project you will also refine your observational skills and demonstrate your understanding of how to critically analyse the work of other artists.
2. **Organic** - In this project you will investigate 3D construction and Landscapes. You will learn about artists who have fulfilled the brief 'Organic' and how they have used different mediums. Using this knowledge, you will develop your own personal response using clay, where you will develop hand building skills to manipulate, join and add textures to clay. Within this project you will also refine your drawing skills and demonstrate your understanding of how to critically analyse the work of other artists.
3. **Personal investigation** - Continued development of portfolio and outcomes in response to ONE set theme. All students will extend either the "Heads" or "Organic" project, now with their own chosen context. They will make their own personal response to this theme, work in a wide range of media and look at a variety of artists/sources.

Why should you choose to study this subject in KS4?

Students should study Art at KS4 as it is an area of the curriculum that celebrates individuality and offers the student a creative voice. Art at KS4 will give you a range of technical skills that you will be able to apply to your own ideas as the course develops. You will experience a wide range of artistic styles, and your teacher will give you independence and confidence in research to help towards your final outcomes throughout the two-year course.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 to 1

Component 1 – coursework, which will contribute towards 60% of your grade. Work will be selected to create a portfolio from both Year 10 and 11 practical work.

Component 2 - controlled assessment and will contribute to 40% of your grade. You will be expected to produce another portfolio of work based off a theme set by the exam board in the January of Year 11.

Progression routes

GCSE Art & Design would be an ideal course to go onto A Level and Art Colleges. Future careers using these subjects could be in a wide range of work in the growing creative industries such as Architecture,

Graphic Design, Interior Design, Public Art, Marketing, Illustration, Animation, Comic and Concept Art, Creative Writing, Fashion Design, Fashion Marketing, Fashion Photography, Photography, Filmmaking, Fine Art, Games Art, Games Design, Graphic Design, Marketing Communications, Textile Design and Visual Communication.

Subject: Business Studies (GCSE)

Faculty: Social Studies

Faculty Leader: Mr M Faulkner

Course Leader: Ms E Speak

Course Content:

The world of business affects each and every one of us on a daily basis. Whether you have ambitions to work in business or set up your own business, this course will give you a valuable insight into how businesses are set up and managed, how and why some businesses succeed whereas others fail. There are six main units that students will study over the two years:

- Business in the Real World
- Influences on Business
- Business Operations
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Finance

The specification has been designed to make full use of a range of teaching and learning methods including independent investigation and research, ICT, case studies, business simulations and discussion/debate. The course develops key skills such as communication, problem solving, critical analysis and evaluation.

Why should you choose to study this subject in KS4?

The world of business affects each and every one of us daily. Whether you have ambitions to work in, or set up your own business, this course will give you an insight into how businesses operate and will also help to develop the skills needed to be successful in a wide range of future careers. You will learn about how businesses are set up, organised and financed and how they use marketing, advertising and the growth of social media to help them sell their products and services. The importance of recruiting and training employees is also studied, as well as the evolving and dynamic global nature of business. The course will challenge your opinions and views on more serious issues such as the ethics of fast fashion or Starbucks not paying a penny of UK corporation tax in recent years. Business Studies develops essential communication, planning and evaluation skills and makes you more aware of your role as consumers, employees and potentially business owners. It will help develop your ability to investigate and enquire, build arguments and make informed judgments.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9-1. There are two exams that are sat at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 – Influences of Operations & HRM on Business Activity - External Examination worth 50% (1hr 45)

Paper 2 – Influences of Marketing & Finance on Business Activity - External Examination worth 50% (1hr 45)

Progression routes

Business Studies is an ideal base for a range of A Level subjects, however specifically Economics, Business Studies, BTEC Business or other related subjects such as Law and Accounting. It also forms an ideal foundation for a wide range of careers but is particularly relevant if you want to work in the functions of Human Resources, Operations, Marketing or Finance of either a small or large business. It is also relevant if you want to work as an accountant, stockbroker, recruitment consultant or be an entrepreneur and set up your own business.

Subject: Computer Science (GCSE)

Faculty: Communication and Media Technology

Faculty Leader: Mr S Hunt

Course Content:

Students studying this exciting, challenging and modern GCSE will learn how to: create applications that run on mobile devices; operate in a web-enabled environment; create simple computer games and gain an understanding of the fundamental concepts around creating software applications. A problem solving and solid work ethic is required to do well on this course. This course will provide a great platform for students wishing to study A level Computer Science.

This is a demanding and academic subject, and students should be confident mathematicians.

What are the benefits of continuing to participate in this subject in KS4?

Computers are everywhere. We use mobile phones, TVs and cars that include large amounts of software; almost everyone has a computer in their home and virtually everyone under 30 plays computer games. These systems all rely on advanced computer science. You will learn how to think and solve problems in a logical way and how to express your solutions as computer programs.

The GCSE Computer Science course will get you working with real-world, practical programming techniques that will give you a good understanding of what makes technology work.

Computer science is not the same as IT. We focus on principles and technology, not how to use computer applications. GCSE Computer Science counts towards the English Baccalaureate science measure, offering you a new option that achieves maximum recognition.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 to 1

This Computer Science qualification will improve computational thinking, helping you to develop the skills to solve problems and design systems that do so. The course is assessed through 2 examined components:

- The first component is an exam focused on computer systems covering the physical elements of computer science and the associated theory (50%)
- The second component is focused on the core theory of computer science and the application of computer science principles, with many programming and computational problems to solve (50%)
- Programming Project: All students have the opportunity to complete a full programming project, and although this does not count towards the final qualification, it enables all students to build a comprehensive understanding of applying a range of programming principles.

Progression routes

This challenging course is ideal preparation for the A-Level Computer Science course.

A survey by 'CareerCast' rates Software Engineer as 2nd highest out of 200 career options. The demand for skilled computer science students is continually growing, and outstripping supply. Computer Science graduates are highly demanded by employers both in the UK and globally.

Subject: Creative iMedia (OCR Certificate)

Faculty: Communication and Media Technology

Faculty Leader: Mr S Hunt

Course Content:

The OCR Certificate in Creative iMedia is an exciting combination of ICT and Media designed for practically minded students who wish to work in the Digital Creative Media Industries. The course will be taught by a combination of Media and ICT specialists. During the course, you will learn how to effectively plan digital media products during pre-production. You will also complete units in creating digital graphics and creating an interactive multimedia product. 60% of the course is assessed by practical assignments and 40% of the marks come from an exam.

What are the benefits of continuing to participate in this subject in KS4?

Digital Media plays an important part in many areas of our everyday lives and is also an important part of the UK economy. There is a demand from employers for an increasingly skilled and technically literate workforce as more and more media products are produced digitally. The OCR Level 2 Certificate in Creative iMedia provides students with specific and transferable skills and a solid foundation in understanding and applying this subject, whether it is in employment or higher education. The Certificate in Creative iMedia will equip you with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively

Assessment information

The Qualification will be awarded Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass

There are Three units:

Creative iMedia in the Media Industry – Externally Assessed (1hr 30 Exam) On completion of this unit, students will understand the purpose and uses of a range of pre-production techniques. They will be able to plan pre-production of a creative digital media product to a client brief and will understand how to review pre-production documents.

Visual Identity and Digital Graphics – (Centre Assessed Task) On completion of this unit, students will understand the purpose and properties of digital graphics and know where and how they are used. They will be able to plan the creation of digital graphics, create new digital graphics using a range of editing techniques and review a completed graphic against a specific brief. This unit will build on and develop skills already learned in Key stage 3 Computing lessons.

Creating an interactive multimedia product – (Centre Assessed Task) On completion of this unit, students will be able to explore and understand the different properties, purposes and features of multimedia products, plan and create an IDMP and review the final product. This unit will build on and develop skills already learned in Key stage 3 IT lessons.

Progression routes

Students who take this qualification can progress to A Level Media Studies, or a Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate in Digital Media in the sixth form. This qualification is equally useful if you are going on to college to take a vocational qualification such as BTEC or seek a post 16 Apprenticeship.

Subject: Design and Technology (GCSE)

Faculty: Design, Technology and Innovation

Faculty Leader: Mrs A Blakeley

Course Leader: Mrs G Williams

Course Content:

Edexcel 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.

Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials, techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course in Year 11.

Why should you choose to study this subject in KS4?

Design & Technology helps to prepare you for life in an advanced technological society and could lead to a career in areas which are vital for the future whilst developing entrepreneurial skills. Students learn to work independently – particularly in year 11, which allows them to be more creative and effective time managers.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 – 1

Assessment is both through coursework 50% and an exam worth 50% of the final grade.

- Written exam: 2 hours, worth 100 marks in total - 40 marks on core information on all material areas, 60 marks for specialist material area (Timbers).
- Practical application of core technical principles, specialist technical principles, designing and making principles. (Non-exam assessment) 30–35 hours approx. 100 marks, 50%.

Task(s)

- Substantial design and make task
- Assessment criteria:
 - Investigating
 - Designing
 - Making
 - Analysing and Evaluating
- Students will produce a working product (prototype) and a portfolio of evidence (max 20 pages)

Progression routes

Students who study Design & Technology can progress further to A Level Design & Technology: Product Design

Subject: Drama (GCSE)

Faculty: Performing Arts

Faculty Leader: Mr P Condry

Course Leader: Mrs Y Wittering

Course Content :

Drama is an excellent subject to develop confidence, resilience and social skills. It is studied and examined through three components within the OCR examination board.

Students will experience a wide range of texts throughout the course. Additionally, students will explore the following roles in the practical work: director, performer, lighting designer, sound designer, set designer, and costume designer.

Component 1: Devising Drama. Students explore a stimulus pack through workshops and submit a written portfolio, describing and evaluating their journey. This component is completed in lessons. (30%)

Component 2: Presenting and performing text. Students explore and perform a section of script through a series of workshop sessions. There is a written actor's concept proforma to complete. A visiting examiner will attend the performance evening. (30%)

Component 3: Drama Performance and response. Students study and view the professional work of others. This is a written exam worth 40% of the qualification.

Why should you choose to study this subject in KS4?

Drama provides a respectful environment where self-expression can flourish. Students creatively explore texts and issues which are relevant and important to young adults. Drama fosters and develops confidence and the important skill of being able to work cooperatively and creatively with others to achieve a shared goal.

Drama is not just the ambition to be a performer or pursuing a theatre related career. It is about becoming a person who can negotiate, be flexible, be empathetic and express one's ideas and opinions articulately.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded as GCSE levels 9 to 1

Component 1: Devising drama (30%)

Component 2: Presenting and performing text (30%)

Component 3: Performance and response. Written response to a set text and a theatre performance (40%)

Progression routes

A level Drama and Theatre Studies

Performance Arts courses at A level, BTEC or equivalent

Subject: Design and Technology - Fashion & Textiles (GCSE)

Faculty: Design, Technology and Innovation

Faculty Leader: Mrs A Blakeley

Course Leader: Mrs G Williams

Course Content:

Edexcel 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.

Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials, techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course in Year 11.

Why should you choose to study this subject in KS4?

Design and Technology - Fashion and Textiles is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. It allows students to develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world. They will learn to apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users. They will get the opportunity in this course to critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 – 1

Assessment is both through coursework 50% and an exam worth 50% of the final grade.

- Written exam: 2 hours, worth 100 marks in total - 40 marks on core information on all material areas, 60 marks for specialist material area (Textiles)
- Practical application of core technical principles, specialist technical principles, designing and making principles. (Non-exam assessment) 30–35 hours approx. 100 marks, 50%.

Task(s)

- Substantial design and make task
- Assessment criteria:
 - Investigating
 - Designing
 - Making
 - Analysing and Evaluating
- Students will produce a working product (prototype) and a portfolio of evidence (max 20 pages)

Progression routes

Upon completion of this course students can progress onto qualifications such as A Level Fashion & Textiles, A Level Product Design or BTEC extended level 3 Diploma in Fashion and Textiles.

Subject: Ethics, Philosophy and Religion (GCSE)

Faculty: Humanities

Faculty Leader: Mrs N Edney

Course Leader: Mrs R Lenton

Course Content:

Ethics, Philosophy and Religion is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore the deeper questions surrounding existence and truth. It provides the opportunity for students to debate and discuss questions such as 'can war ever be right?', 'why is there suffering?' and 'should euthanasia be legalised?'. These questions are explored with recognition of how those of religious and non-religious backgrounds would respond. The course enables students to develop their debating technique, oral and written analysis, evaluation and appraisal of arguments.

Students will follow the AQA Religious Studies specification A GCSE with Christianity and Islam as the religions of enquiry. Units of study include Relationships and family; Peace and conflict; Crime and Punishment and Religion and life, alongside an investigation into core religious beliefs and concepts.

Studying Ethics, Philosophy and Religion has never been more appropriate and exciting. As members of a global community, whether in law, medicine, the public sector or business, it is important that the leaders of tomorrow have an understanding of what influences and shapes human behaviour. Ethics, Philosophy and Religion provides the platform for students to cultivate their own understanding of why we are here and why we do what we do – fantastic preparation for living in the wider world.

Assessment information:

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 to 1

AQA GCSE Religious Studies A Full Course (8062)

Paper 1 [1 hour 45 minutes] is Study of religious beliefs, teachings and practices

Paper 2 [1 hour 45 minutes] is Thematic studies

The course is taught in five lessons a fortnight, over two years, with two terminal examinations sat in the Summer of Year 11; there is no coursework component.

Progression routes:

Students can continue study at Key Stage 5 with our popular A Level course in Philosophy, Ethics and Religion. The course is highly valued by universities and employers, notably listed by Oxbridge and Russell Group universities as a desirable A Level for any course, due to the depth and skillset involved. Moreover, it has the potential to offer excellent skills and awareness for a wide range of careers including journalism, childcare and education, police work, business and law, medicine, social care and community work, charity and diplomatic work.

Subject: Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)

Faculty: Design, Technology and Innovation

Faculty Leader: Mrs A Blakeley

Course Content:

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition gives students the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

The majority of the lessons are delivered through preparation and making activities. Students must be able to make the connections between theory and practice to apply their understanding of food and nutrition to practical preparation. The modules studied are:-

1. Food, nutrition and health
2. Food science
3. Food safety
4. Food choice
5. Food provenance.

Why should you choose to study this subject in KS4?

GCSE Food Preparation and nutrition offers students the chance to work in an exciting, creative environment where they can explore a passion for food. It allows students to work with a range of ingredients and processes whilst giving them the chance to cook a broad range of challenging dishes. The practical element is a strong focus and it gives students the opportunity to learn through practical skills which is an interesting contrast to the theory lessons. The course content has many similarities to the science and biology curriculum whilst also looking at the practical application of food processing.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 - 1

Progression routes

Previous students have pursued careers in the food industry and a number of past students are now successful chefs, some now work abroad in internationally acclaimed restaurants. Many continue to university and have studied dietetics, new product development, nanotechnology, secondary or primary education, agriculture and environmental health. Students learn to work independently – particularly in year 11, which allows them to be more creative and effective time managers. Successful students will be eligible to study this subject at A Level. This subject prepares students for one of the remaining growth employment sectors in the UK.

Subject: Geography (GCSE)

Faculty: Humanities

Faculty Leader: Mrs N Edney

Course Leader: Dr T P Watts

Course Content:

Geography is a hugely important subject in the development of the skills and understanding needed to make sense of our rapidly changing world! At Prince Henry's, we study a wide range of fascinating and up-to-date topics via an equally wide range of learning activities with an excellent team of teachers:

Physical Geography: Challenge of Natural Hazards; The Living World; Physical Landscapes of the UK.

Human Geography: Urban Issues and Challenges; The Changing Economic World; The Challenge of Resource Management.

Students will also complete a skills-based/decision-making exam using pre-released materials, they will also undertake fieldwork to support their class-based learning.

Post-16/Career options: Geography bridges the arts and sciences, it works well with almost any A level option choice! It is a highly regarded subject by universities and employers due to the transferable skills and global awareness developed. From working in law, accountancy and teaching to flood management, tourism and the 'green' energy sector, geographers are highly sought after people!

Why should you choose to study this subject in KS4?

Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world's current challenges boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future (you!) to help us understand them. Global warming, sustainable food production, natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, the spread of disease, the reasons for migration and the future of energy resources are just some of the challenges facing the next generation of geographers and make up just a few of the topics you will become experts in when studying Geography.

The Geography course at Prince Henry's has a dynamic mix of topics, as outlined in the summary information. It will enable you to develop the transferable skills needed within and beyond the classroom. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big issues and challenges which affect our world. You will also have the opportunity to experience geography in action on our fantastic field trip to Iceland, 'the land of fire and ice'!

Geography is a highly popular subject at Prince Henry's and the Faculty has a history of impressive results. Students enjoy and excel in their lessons due to being taught by a team of very experienced, dedicated and enthusiastic teachers. It is an academic subject which works well alongside all other option subjects.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 to 1

Assessment in Geography is very straightforward. You will complete three exams at the end of year 11. One paper will cover the physical geography topics and count towards 40% of the final mark. One paper will cover the human geography topics and count towards 40% of the final mark. One paper will cover 'Geographical Applications' and will be based on skills learnt during the course and material released to the students before the exam.

Progression routes

Compared to other subjects, geography graduates are among the most employable of all! They possess the skills that employers look for. In part this is because the subject combines a knowledge of science and an understanding of the arts. GCSE Geography is a valuable subject that will help you to make more sense of some of the many changes taking place in the world that will affect you and other people. It will enable you to develop a huge range of transferable skills including numeracy, literacy, ICT and decision-making.

GCSE Geography can lead you onto a range of further studies, working well with almost all A level combinations (being an academic subject), and would also provide a useful foundation for vocational courses such as media, leisure, travel and tourism. Geographers are highly employable people!

Subject: German (GCSE)

Faculty: Modern Foreign Languages

Faculty Leader: Mrs J Barber

Course Leader: Ms H Rosillo

Course Content:

Becoming a '**Dual Linguist**' is an option which is not widely available in many schools but here at Prince Henry's we are able to offer you this opportunity. Why stop at just one language when you could continue with both and study **AQA GCSE German** as well as your French or Spanish?

Topics such as healthy living, school, problems affecting young people and your local area are all topics you have started to look at in Years 8 and 9 and the course continues to allow you to develop your vocab, structures and your range of ideas on these topics. Independent learning, online activities and work with the German Assistant all play a part in this course in addition to the work done in the classroom.

Following exactly the same structure as the AQA GCSEs in French and Spanish, students are able to transfer and adapt their skills from one language to another and ensure they achieve their potential in not just one, but two languages.

Why should you choose to study this subject in KS4?

Dual linguists are greatly sought after in the world of business and commerce and taking German in addition to your French and Spanish could really help you boost your career and earnings in the future.

German is spoken by over 120 million people and with the global dimension playing an ever increasing role in society, learning the language of one of Europe's most successful countries cannot be overlooked.

As one of the most powerful economic countries in the world, working with German in the future can really help you become successful in business. The pharmaceutical industry is always looking for German speaking scientists for research and development opportunities and for those looking for careers in publishing and the media, being a dual linguist can really help further your career.

Working on their speaking skills with the German Assistant and having the opportunity to take part in the KS4/5 trip to Aachen, really allow students to enhance their skills further and become even more successful with the language.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 to 1

The final exam is worth 100% of the overall exam mark and is split into four exams. The four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing are all examined in the final exam and there are two overall tiers of entry – Foundation or Higher. In the final exams, students will demonstrate their knowledge of the language and the language learning skills they have developed throughout the course.

Progression routes

Dual linguists are highly sought after in many areas of society due to their enhanced communication skills and most continue with their studies in the 6th form and then later at degree level in order to develop their skills as fully as possible before going into the world of work.

In most areas of the world of work, languages can help further your career. They give you opportunities that are not always available to everyone as not everyone speaks another language, let alone two! Whether working in business, finance, the travel industry or the armed forces, languages will always help open doors and allow you to see and experience the world in a unique and fulfilling way.

Subject: Health and Social Care (BTEC First Award)

Faculty: Communication and Media Technology

Faculty Leader: Mr S Hunt

Course Leader: Miss R Gardiner

Course Content:

There has never been a better time to study Health and Social Care. The course considers why some people are more likely to suffer ill health than others and how we can all improve our health to increase our life expectancy. It also looks at how people grow and develop over time and how life events such as marriage, divorce, parenthood and bereavement can affect people. In addition, students are given the opportunity to investigate how services in the local area support people and to demonstrate the skills need to support people through role play.

Why should you choose to study this subject in KS4?

What does it take to be a great youth worker, centre manager, care worker or health visitor? Do you have an interest in working in nursing or education or in social work? Individuals working in the health and social care industry have a positive impact on the people they care for and make a massive contribution to the communities we live in. Health and Social Care provides a practical, real-world approach to learning and develops specific knowledge and skills that learners need to work successfully in the care industry, skills such as:

- Being able to understand and demonstrate specific care values which are used across the health service and in social sectors.
- Initiative and positive communication skills to support people with a diverse range of needs.
- Developing project/self-management and independent learning skills by completing coursework.

Assessment information:

This qualification will be awarded Distinction (*), Distinction, Merit or Pass

Students studying Health and Social will study the following components:

1. Human Lifespan Development (internally assessed)
2. Health and Social Care Services and Values (internally assessed)

3. Health and Wellbeing (externally assessed)

Progression routes:

Following this course, students have pursued careers in midwifery, nursing, social work, primary education, and other caring professions. Successful students will also be eligible to study this subject at Level 3 BTEC Health and Social Care at Prince Henry's Grammar School.

It also provides an excellent foundation for college courses or an apprenticeship in Health and Social care or Childcare.

Subject: History (GCSE)

Faculty: History

Faculty Leader: Mrs N Edney

Course Leader: Mr P Low

Course Content:

GCSE History is a popular and exciting course which covers a range of topic areas which are extremely worthwhile and will certainly grab your attention. The units include: a thematic study of Medicine over time (including an investigation into the impact of trench warfare on medicine); a depth study on Germany 1919-1939 under the rule of the Weimar Republic and the Nazis; and period studies of Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588, and the associated tensions of the Cold War 1941-1991. To supplement this, the Year 11 trip to Berlin gives students the opportunity to personally experience many of the places that they study in their Germany and Cold War units.

What are the benefits of continuing to participate in this subject in KS4?

History offers a myriad of benefits for those who choose to study it at GCSE. It is a subject about people, examining emotions that tear people apart and reasons why people work together towards common goals. It teaches us about different countries, societies and cultures and allows us to appreciate lives that are markedly different to our own. Many of today's conflicts and issues have their roots in the past and therefore to better understand today's society we must look at the past. Alongside gaining an understanding of today's society and how the past has helped to shape this, you will develop many transferable skills, such as: research skills; problem solving skills; critical thinking skills; and analysis and enquiry skills.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 to 1

There is no coursework option.

Unit 1: Thematic study and Historic Environment: This unit is 30% of the course and includes the study of Medicine from 1250 AD to the present day and a specific case study of the historic environment of the British sector of the Western Front. This paper focus allows students to develop an awareness of changes and continuities in medicine over nearly 1000 years of British history.

Unit 2: British Depth Study and Period Study: This unit is 40% and the most important of the three units. Students will study two topics: Elizabethan England 1558-1588 and Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991. Students will take two papers in one examination sitting.

Unit 3: Modern Depth Study: The final paper focuses on Weimar and Nazi Germany. This tried and tested unit has always been popular with students, allowing them to learn about: how Germany attempted to recover in the aftermath of World War One; how a dictator was able to manipulate his way into power through democratic means; and the impact that the Nazis had on the lives of all German people.

Progression routes

“Historians are regarded as having had an education that trains their minds to assemble, organise and present facts and opinions and this a very important quality in many walks of life and careers. History is excellent preparation for many professions” (Which Magazine? Which Subject? 2011).

History is a subject that delivers a wide range of transferable skills which will allow you to do a lot more than become a History teacher! **Former GCSE History students from Prince Henry's have gone on to careers in the following areas: scientific research, armed forces, politics, law, medicine, police, banking & accountancy, public services, sports journalism, engineering and writing.** This represents just a small cross-section of the career pathways that are on offer to any student that chooses to study History at GCSE Level & beyond!

Subject: Hospitality and Catering (Vocational Award)

Faculty: Design, Technology and Innovation

Faculty Leader: Mrs A Blakeley

Course Content:

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering is made up of two mandatory units:

Unit 1 The Hospitality and Catering Industry

Unit 2 Hospitality and Catering in Action

Learners must complete both units.

Why should you choose to study this subject in KS4?

The hospitality and catering sector includes all businesses that provide food, beverages, and/or accommodation services. This includes restaurants, hotels, pubs and bars. It also includes airlines, tourist attractions, hospitals and sports venues; businesses where hospitality and catering is not their primary service but is increasingly important to their success. According to the British Hospitality Association, hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce. Since 2010, over 25% of all new jobs have been within the hospitality and catering sector with the majority of new roles falling within the 18-24 age group, according to a report by People 1st.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded Level 1 or 2 Distinction (*), Distinction, Merit or Pass

Assessment The qualification consists of two components, the first consists of six topics including; 'Food commodities', 'Principles of nutrition', 'Diet and good health', 'The science of food', 'Where food comes from' alongside 'Cooking and food preparation'. The second component involves a 'Food Investigation' and a 'Food Preparation Assessment'. To meet the needs and interest of budding chefs, the assignments offer students a choice of practical briefs to enable them to showcase their culinary skills.

Unit 1: The Hospitality & Catering industry Online examination: 90 minutes

The applied purpose of the unit is for learners to use their knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry in order to propose new hospitality and catering provision to meet specific needs. In this unit, you will learn about the different types of providers within the hospitality and catering industry, the legislation that needs to be adhered to and the personal safety of all of those involved in the business, whether staff or customers. You will learn about the operation of hospitality and catering establishments and the factors affecting their success. The knowledge and understanding you gain will enable you to respond to issues relating to all factors within the sector and provide you with the ability to propose a new provision that could be opened in a given location to benefit the owner and the local community.

Unit 2: Hospitality & Catering in action

Non-examination assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated Assessment: 9 hours including 3 hours controlled practical

The applied purpose of the unit is for learners to safely plan, prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes. In this unit you will gain knowledge of the nutritional needs of a range of client groups in order for you to plan nutritional dishes to go on a menu. You will learn and develop safe and hygienic food preparation, cooking and finishing skills required to produce nutritional dishes. The assessment will be based on a choice of tasks released annually.

Progression routes

As part of a collection of qualifications this course can support movement to a variety of post-16 courses at Prince Henry's or elsewhere. The qualification alone will provide a springboard towards catering and/ or hospitality opportunities, which could include apprenticeships and/ or moving to work in the hospitality industry.

Subject: Media Studies (GCSE)

Faculty: Communication and Media Technology

Faculty Leader: Mr S Hunt

Course Leader: Mrs R Fox

Course Content:

Media shapes almost everything we do, from news and advertising to social media, gaming, and streaming. This course helps you understand how the media works, how it influences audiences, and how to create your own media products. You'll build research, creative, and analytical skills while exploring some of the most exciting and relevant cultural issues today.

In lessons, you'll learn how media products are constructed and why they appeal to audiences. You'll also develop practical skills in photography and graphic design to create your own media content.

Advertising, film marketing, magazines, music videos, newspapers, social media, radio, television, and video games. Set texts include Stormzy and Taylor Swift music videos, The Guardian and The Sun newspapers, Vogue and GQ magazines, Friends and Modern Family sitcoms, Fortnite, and more.

What are the benefits of participating in this subject in KS4?

Media Studies combines academic analysis with creative production, helping you understand how media shapes culture and influences audiences while developing critical thinking and practical design skills. You'll gain experience in planning, photography, and digital tools, alongside transferable skills employers value like teamwork, problem-solving, creativity, and communication.

It's an exciting, relevant subject that prepares you for A Levels, university, and careers in media, marketing, journalism, and beyond.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 - 1

- Component 1: Exploring Media Language & Representation (Exam – 1 hr 30 mins, 30%)
- Component 2: Understanding Media Forms & Products (Exam – 1 hr 30 mins, 40%)
- Component 3: Creating Media Products (Coursework – 30%)

Progression routes

Media Studies complements other creative subjects like Art and DT while adding variety to more STEM based subjects. It can lead to any level 3 qualifications, but in particular A Level Media Studies, Film Studies, Sociology, or Level 3 Digital Media courses, and supports careers in journalism, marketing, gaming, film, and digital content creation.

Subject: Music (GCSE)

Faculty: Performing Arts

Faculty Leader: Mr P Condry

Course Content:

GCSE Music is a broad qualification designed to allow all different types of musician to flourish. *You are entitled to subsidised instrumental/vocal lessons in school if you take this course.* You will earn all the skills required to progress as a musician including how to perform successfully and how to compose your own music creatively. You will also learn some of the theory behind music, learning to apply this knowledge in many practical ways. The vast majority of lessons are practical in nature, regardless of which one of the three strands is the focus for that day.

What are the benefits of continuing to participate in this subject in KS4?

If you play an instrument and have lessons in school, one of the major benefits is that you will receive free tuition. Music is analytical, creative and expressive, all at once! It helps you to develop skills for the future, such as performing in front of others (which may help with public speaking/presenting). It also enables you to be a great communicator and develop your composing skills, which helps creativity. There is no other subject that allows you to communicate so many emotions and moods without speaking (and often communicate what words cannot express). Musicians are highly skilled individuals!

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 to 1

Performing – one solo performance and one ensemble (group) performance (30%). Performances may comprise more than 1 piece, as you have to perform at least 4 minutes' of music, with at least 1 minute solo and at least 1 minute ensemble. There are options to perform using music technology e.g. music studio software

Composing – two original compositions by you lasting a minimum of 3 minutes in total (30%). One composition will be in response to a brief set by the exam board.

Understanding music – a 1h 30m written exam with some questions being in response to music played on a CD. You will study music from a variety of different genres for this exam including contemporary Pop music.

Progression routes

GCSE Music prepares you well for A level Music, A level Music Technology, Level 3 BTECs in Music and Performing Arts.

Subject: Physical Education (GCSE)

Faculty: Physical Education and Sport

Faculty Leader: Mr D Curtis

Course Content:

Why should you choose to study GCSE Physical Education in KS4?

Choose GCSE Physical Education if:

- ✓ You have a genuine ability and interest in a range of practical PE activities and theoretical topics
- ✓ You must be taking part in high quality physical activity/sport in your own time (in/out of school).
- ✓ You want to learn more about how physical activity benefits you and you want to become better at the sports you take part in.
- ✓ You want to develop life skills that employers really value. It improves your ability to coach, lead and supervise people.
- ✓ You want to develop your fitness and learn how to develop the fitness of others.
- ✓ You are interested in biological and psychological theory in a sporting context.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 to 1

The GCSE course is assessed over three units.

- **Unit 1** - The Human body and movement in physical education and sport. This is assessed through a written examination and contributes up to 30% of your total marks.
- **Unit 2** – Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport. This is assessed through a written examination and contributes up to 30% of your total marks.
- **Unit 3 – Practical performance in three sports.** You will be assessed in your practical performances as a participant in one team sport, one individual sport and one team or individual sport. This contributes 30% of your total marks, plus an **analysis of performance** in one of the chosen activities, which is worth 10% of the total marks and should include analysing your own or someone else's performance and planning way to improve this.

Progression routes

As well as being the ideal preparation for the A level Physical Education course, GCSE PE allows for the progression to related vocational qualifications such as the BTEC National in Sport or Sport and Exercise Science

The course develops the transferable and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities. This can include further training in such areas as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, officiating, fitness industry, physiotherapy, psychology, medicine, nutrition, the armed forces and civil service.

Subject: Level 2 Tech Award in Sport (BTEC)

Faculty: Physical Education and Sport

Faculty Leader: Mr D Curtis

Why should you choose to study BTEC Sport in KS4?

Choose the BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Sport if:

- You have a genuine interest in a range of practical PE activities and theoretical topics.
- You enjoy taking part in physical activity/sport in your own time (in/out of school).
- You want to acquire sector specific knowledge and skills in sports and physical activity, whilst developing life skills that employers really value. You want to develop your skills and confidence in planning and delivering sporting activities to participants.
- You have a keen interest in fitness testing and methodology in both a practical and theoretical setting.
- You enjoy a more practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

Course Content/ Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded in line with Level 2 of the Regulated Qualifications Framework. All components will be awarded on a seven-point grade scale from Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction*.

The BTEC course is assessed over three components.

- **Component 1** – Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity. This component is assessed via a non-examined internal assessment and external moderation.
- **Component 2** – Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance. This component is assessed via a non-examined internal assessment and external moderation.
- **Component 3** – Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants' Performance in Sport and Physical Activity. This component is marked via an external synoptic examination and is worth 40% of overall marks.

Progression routes

Naturally, studying Level 2 Tech Award in sport would allow for the progression to related vocational qualifications such as the BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport or Sport and Exercise Science.

Through its largely vocational nature, the course develops transferable and key skills that prepare learners for entering employment and apprenticeships in fields such as coaching, officiating, fitness, physiotherapy and psychology. Similarly, skills acquired will prepare learners to move to higher education by studying an undergraduate degree in the Sport Sciences or teaching sectors.

Subject: Statistics (GCSE) AQA Foundation Level

Faculty: Mathematics

Faculty Leader: Mr A Fishburn

Course Content:

Statistics is about making decisions when there is uncertainty. Perhaps one of the most versatile areas of maths, it gives students the skills to collect, analyse, interpret and present data.

- Strategies for collecting, recording and processing data in order to address an identified question or hypothesis.
- Design primary data collection techniques or with reference to sources for secondary data to ensure unbiased research.
- Generate statistical diagrams
- Calculate statistical measures to compare data.
- Use diagrams and calculation to interpret results with reference to the context of the problem, and to evaluate the validity and reliability of statistical findings.

Why should you choose to study this subject in KS4?

GCSE Statistics is designed to complement subjects such as GCSE Biology, Psychology, Business and Economics and opens the door to a variety of careers. It is designed to be taught alongside GCSE Maths.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 5 to 1

GCSE Statistics will be assessed at the Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5).

Students must take two question papers which are both 1 hour 45 minutes long.

Progression routes

The ability to interpret statistics is a skill needed in many A-level subjects such as Psychology, Geography and Science.

Statistics are used in weather forecasting, analysing and tracking sales information, investment companies, insurance, traffic management, estate management and practically every area of life will use some form of statistics.