



Key Stage 4

CORE SUBJECTS

Additional information

2026 - 2028

Subject: GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature

Faculty: English

Faculty Leader: Mr C Smith

Course Summary:

Students study the AQA GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature specifications where they will receive two qualifications. Students are assessed on their abilities in Reading of literary and non-literary texts and a range of Writing skills. They will also receive a separate grade in Spoken English. **Both courses are assessed through terminal examinations only, in year 11.** In year 10 and 11 students are taught in ability groups based on their performance at Key Stage 3.

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

Being able to read, write and verbally communicate in Standard English, at a competent level, is crucial for young people entering into an increasingly competitive world. In addition, the assessment of Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation now forms part of GCSE assessment in other subjects so confidence with these skills will engage students further and maximise their chances of success. It is also our aim to foster a life-long love of reading through the study of English.

Assessment information

These qualifications will be awarded GCSE levels 9 to 1. Please note that there is no tiered entry for these exams, meaning all students have the opportunity to achieve levels 9 to 1 regardless of set.

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1 EXAM Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing 1hr 45mins 50%

Paper 2 EXAM Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives 1hr 45mins 50%

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper 1 EXAM Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel 1hr 45mins 40%

Paper 2 EXAM Modern texts and poetry 2hr 15 mins 60%

Progression routes

Students can continue with their study of English at KS5 with A Levels in English Literature and English Language.

Subject: Maths

Faculty: Maths

Faculty Leader: Mr Fishburn

Course Summary:

Following the Linear GCSE, students either study the foundation OCR or higher AQA course; there is no coursework element at either tier of entry. The foundation tier will cover grades 1-5 and the higher tier will cover grades 4-9. Students will be required to sit 3 assessments at the end of year 11.

Students wishing to study Maths at Advanced Level must have completed the Higher Tier course and have achieved a grade 7 or higher overall.

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

Mathematics is a key skill, fundamental to success in many other subjects. Its role in daily life, from finance to construction, from transport to catering, and all aspects of personal finance, is without question. GCSE Maths equips students with the skills they need both to pass their exams and become better at solving the problems they may meet in other subjects or in real life scenarios.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 to 1

In Key Stage 4, students are assessed every term. At the end of year 10 all students sit a reduced GCSE paper and in December of year 11 students sit a full mock exam. The results from each test combined with teacher assessment are used to make sure that every student is in the correct set and that they are following the correct tier of entry.

Students follow three possible routes (all exams to be sat in the Summer of Year 11):

OCR Foundation Linear GCSE:

- 1 x non calculator paper (1hr 30min)
- 2 x calculator papers (1hr 30mins each)

AQA Higher Linear GCSE:

- 1 x non calculator paper (1hr 30min)
- 2 x calculator papers (1hr 30mins each)

There is no coursework element to any of the courses.

Pupils will be given a formulae sheet for the exams

Progression routes

After following your GCSE Maths course, it is possible to take A-levels in Maths and Further Maths or a level three qualification in Core Maths.

The study of Mathematics opens more career paths than most other subjects, including Banking and Finance, Accountancy and Insurance as well as being strongly recommended for those interested in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Engineering, Computer Science, Economics and the Sciences. A Mathematics degree garners enormous respect from potential employers.

Subject: Science

Faculty: Science

Faculty Leader: Mrs S Richards

Course Content:

All students will study GCSE Science. There are two different routes through the science curriculum:

- Triple Science awards students with a GCSE grade (1-9) in each of the three separate sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Double Science awards students two GCSE grades (1-9) at the end of year 11.

In Both the above routes Biology, Chemistry and Physics are studied throughout year 10 and 11 only the examinations are different. Both are assessed by 100% examination at the end of year 11.

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

Science is one of the subjects taken by all students in years 10 and 11. It is a very important subject that teaches knowledge and skills relevant to everyday life and a wide range of careers. In all cases you will split your science lessons into Biology, Chemistry and Physics and these will be taught by separate specialist teachers.

Assessment information

This qualification will be awarded GCSE levels 9 to 1

You will complete exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and these will count towards your final grade. The exams will test your knowledge of the ideas covered in lessons. You will be assessed regularly throughout years 10 and 11 to let you know how you are progressing.

You will develop your scientific skills throughout your science education and your ability to plan experiments, take measurements, analyse data and evaluate experimental techniques and results will be assessed as part of the exams.

Everyone will achieve at least two GCSE grades in science and if you make good progress then you could achieve three GCSEs. The GCSEs will be either:

- Double Science
- Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Progression routes

After following either GCSE course many students choose to study the popular science A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology here at Prince Henry's. Level 3 qualifications in Health & Social Care and Applied Science are also popular options and follow on naturally from GCSE Science.

There are obviously numerous careers that ask for scientific qualifications including working in the Health service, with animals, in the food and drinks industry or engineering.

Subject: French

Faculty: Modern Foreign Languages

Faculty Leader: Mrs J Barber

Area Leader: Mrs V Burns

Course Summary:

Continuing with your **GCSE AQA French** course will not only develop your linguistic skills, it will also continue to develop your cultural awareness and will help improve your confidence in both your oral and written skills throughout the curriculum.

Good communication skills, problem solving techniques, ICT skills and a greater understanding of global diversity are all taught alongside the language itself as part of the GCSE Course.

Success in French at GCSE and beyond will open doors to working with the millions of people in numerous countries who speak the language, as well as impressing employers in the future on your CV. Many employers are even willing to pay more to employ people who have good language skills.

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

Developing your literacy and communication skills across the curriculum are vital to your success at GCSE and the study of GCSE French will help support you in this. You will develop your confidence in speaking work, improve your levels of accuracy in written work and also learn how to use language creatively to develop sentences and form opinions. Your independent learning skills will also be tested through interactive vocab learning software and your ICT skills will be utilised well.

The topics covered are interesting and range from the study of festivals and traditions in the French speaking world, to the advantages and disadvantages of online shopping. Learning French is not just about learning lists of vocab and grammar rules, it is about developing your communication skills and using authentic language for real purpose.

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 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

Having successfully completed a GCSE in French, doors around the world can be opened more easily. With a Grade 6 or above at GCSE, further study at A Level and possibly even at degree level can be accessed and the world becomes a smaller place. French is not only the language spoken in France, Belgium and Switzerland, but also many African countries, parts of North and South America and on many beautiful Islands in both the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean. Some employers are prepared to pay more for people who have an ability to speak another language with some workers being paid an extra 20% just because they can deal with clients from both home and abroad. You never know when your language skills are going to come in useful.

Subject: Spanish

Faculty: Modern Foreign Languages

Faculty Leader: Mrs J Barber

Area Leader: Mr V Mani

Course Summary:

Continuing with your **GCSE AQA Spanish** course will not only develop your linguistic skills, it will also continue to develop your cultural awareness and will help improve your confidence in both your oral and written skills throughout the curriculum.

Good communication skills, problem solving techniques, ICT skills and a greater understanding of global diversity are all taught alongside the language itself as part of the GCSE Course.

Success in Spanish at GCSE and beyond will open doors to working with the millions of people in numerous countries who speak the language, as well as impressing employers in the future on your CV. Many employers are even willing to pay more to employ people who have good language skills.

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

Developing your literacy and communication skills across the curriculum are vital to your success at GCSE and the study of GCSE Spanish will help support you in this. You will develop your confidence in speaking work, improve your levels of accuracy in written work and also learn how to use language creatively to develop sentences and form opinions. Your independent learning skills will also be tested through interactive vocab learning software and your ICT skills will be used well.

The topics covered are interesting and range from learning about the Spanish speaking world, to how today's celebrity culture impacts on young people. Learning Spanish is not just about learning lists of vocab and grammar rules, it is about developing your communication skills and using authentic language for real purpose.

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 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

Having successfully completed a GCSE in Spanish, doors around the world can be opened more easily. With a grade 6 or above at GCSE, further study at A Level and possibly even at degree level can be accessed and the world becomes a smaller place. Spanish is the third most spoken language in the world and can take you as far as South America or the Philippines or closer to home with Spain or Andorra. Some employers are prepared to pay more for people who have an ability to speak another language with some workers being paid an extra 20% just because they can deal with clients from both home and abroad. You never know when your language skills are going to come in useful – from working as a courtroom translator through to working on passport control dealing with some of the many Spanish speaking international visitors who come to our region every week up at Leeds Bradford International Airport.

Subject: PSHE and Citizenship Education

Area Leader: Mrs K Wakelin

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Economic) and Citizenship Education

In Year 10 and 11, students will continue with their studies in PSHE and Citizenship, within the four key themes:

- Personal and social relationships
- Health and well-being
- Preparing for the future
- Life in the wider world

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

This curriculum builds on much of the key learning from Key Stage 3, exploring in greater depth and complexity, as students mature and their personal development needs change. Their lessons will follow one theme per term to ensure continuity and meaningful learning, allowing students to engage with the material and draw links between their topics and lived experiences. Lessons are further supported by the three drop-down days calendared through the year.

In Key Stage 4, there is a greater focus on managing life in exam seasons, growing resilience and independence, as well as continuing to support the school culture of respect and kindness. Students learn valuable and nuanced content to help them flourish within, as well as, beyond school.

Additional information

This subject will be taught in one hour per fortnight and will not involve an examination.

Subject: PREP

Faculty: Humanities

Faculty Leader: Mrs N Edney

Course Leader: Mrs Lenton

PREP – Philosophy, Religion, Ethics and Public Citizenship:

In Year 10 and 11 students will have the opportunity to continue investigating some of the deeper philosophical and ethical themes touched on at KS3 with a focus on gaining a broader knowledge and understanding of issues that will prepare them for moving into the adult world.

Topic areas will include: the reinstatement of capital punishment; medical ethics; how religions change through sects and cults; the continuing influence of the feminist movement; prejudice and discrimination and an introduction to philosophy. These topics are taught through a mixture of debate, discussion, analysis of news and media sources.

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

PREP will help to develop the skills of critical thinking and analysis, speaking and listening required to make good academic progress. It will also allow students to gain knowledge in areas linked to art, literature, history, politics and science which will support progress onto advanced level study in these areas and in Philosophy and Ethics.

Assessment information

This course will be taught in one hour per fortnight and will not involve an examination.

Progression routes

Students can, with suitable results in other subjects, use this to access the popular A Level course in Philosophy, Ethics and Religion. This course is highly valued by universities and employers, in 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: CORE Physical Education

Faculty: Physical Education and Sport

Faculty Leader: Mr D Curtis

CORE Physical Education Content (all students studying this):

At Prince Henry's we have a vision for PE that aims to promote lifelong participation, with a growth mindset alongside building a range of skills and knowledge. We offer a varied and wide-ranging programme for KS4 PE students as we look to promote lifelong participation in a healthy and active lifestyle. Students are encouraged to develop knowledge and understanding as well as communication, coaching, organisation and leadership skills in a fun, physically active environment that caters for all abilities.

KS4 core Physical Education lessons for Year 10 and 11 students consist of three lessons per fortnight. In KS4 we offer an options programme including traditional activities such as football, netball, badminton, rugby, swimming and rounders as well as new activities such as dodgeball, table tennis, Club Energy gym, zumba, boxing and body pump. Students choose the activities they'd like to take part in each half term.