



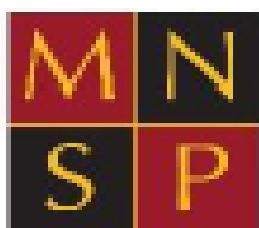
St Dunstan's School
GLASTONBURY

Year 9

Options Booklet

GCSE Courses

2024 - 2026



Investing in the Future of Secondary Education in Glastonbury

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Dear Parents and Carers

At St Dunstan's School, our aim is to support students in accessing opportunities and achieving their goals. Our curriculum is designed to allow students to study a full suite of subjects to ensure that they leave us as young people who seek truth rather than believing everything they hear, who are resilient in the face of setbacks, who are aware of their rights and responsibilities and who are kind to themselves, to others and to the planet. As we often say in assemblies, education is not just about exams - it is about having choices in life, about pursuing the career you love rather than the job you are stuck with. A crucial element in developing the whole person and in having choices in life is the subjects that our students' study during years 10 and 11.

Year 9 is an exciting time for students as this is the point in their academic career where they are given the opportunity to reflect on their learning to date, to consider their aspirations for life after school and to decide on the options they will choose to form their academic and vocational journey. Year 9 is the first time when students genuinely have choices about which subjects, they study - it is also possibly the first time that students start to consider their choices post 16 - whether they choose sixth form, college or an apprenticeship leading to further or higher education, the choices made in Year 9 are significant and should be given serious consideration. Year 9 options are a crucial point in your child's education; we see collaboration between students, school, and parents/carers as crucial to the process.

Students follow a range of subjects; all study the core subjects of English, Maths, Science as GCSE qualifications as well as a Humanity (History or Geography) alongside their own choices. Most of our students will also study French meaning that they meet the criteria for the government's English Baccalaureate. PSHE (Personal Health and Social Education) and PB (Philosophy and Belief) continue to form the backbone of the curriculum provision in Key Stage 4, whilst there are no exams in these subjects, they are vital in allowing students to develop their understanding of themselves and others.

The combination of core and option subjects allows students to follow a curriculum that suits their ambitions, aspirations, and needs. The range of courses offered in our Key Stage 4 Curriculum allows all students to achieve success and furnish themselves with choices post 16.

We look forward to receiving completed options forms as the first step in the next stage of your child's educational journey.

Mr Armstrong

Assistant Head teacher

Important dates:

Below is a list of important events during the option process:

Thursday 8th February	Options Evening
Thursday 29th February	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Friday 1st March	Options Form shared with students
Thursday 14th March	Deadline for the completion of option forms

Following guidance from the Department for Education, we expect most of our students to study the English Baccalaureate suite of qualifications, which includes French and a Humanity (History or Geography). This suite of qualifications is recommended for students who wish to keep their career options open and/or continue in Further Education.

Parents of students who we feel will not benefit from further studying French will be contacted by letter prior to the scheduled Year 9 Parents' Evening. These students will then be interviewed during Term 3 and 4 to ensure they receive appropriate advice and guidance for alternative high-quality courses.

We will finalise the curriculum offer for your child during Term 5 and 6. Those who are not able to access their preferred options and may need further guidance on their option choices will be contacted individually.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Further advice can be sought from subject teachers or Heads of Faculty.

Frequently Asked Questions (for students)

Why is my choice important?

- You are making a two-year commitment and it is vital that you enjoy what you are doing.
- Your choice now may well make a big difference to which courses you can study at College or University. Your decision may affect the type of apprenticeship you can undertake.

How do I make my choice?

DO NOT choose a subject because:

- Your friends are doing the course.
- You like/dislike the teacher.
- You think it will be easy.

DO:

- Find out exactly what each course involves by reading the details in this booklet. Consider how well you can cope with the demands of the subject (ask your teachers for their advice).
- Consider the entrance requirements of any area of employment you are interested in, but remember these are minimum requirements and in today's employment situation the standard of entry may be much higher.
- Be careful not to close any doors at this stage because you may well change your mind about jobs later.

Which courses must I take?

60% of your curriculum is compulsory. You will continue to take English, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography, Core PE, and Philosophy and Belief. Most of you will also take French.

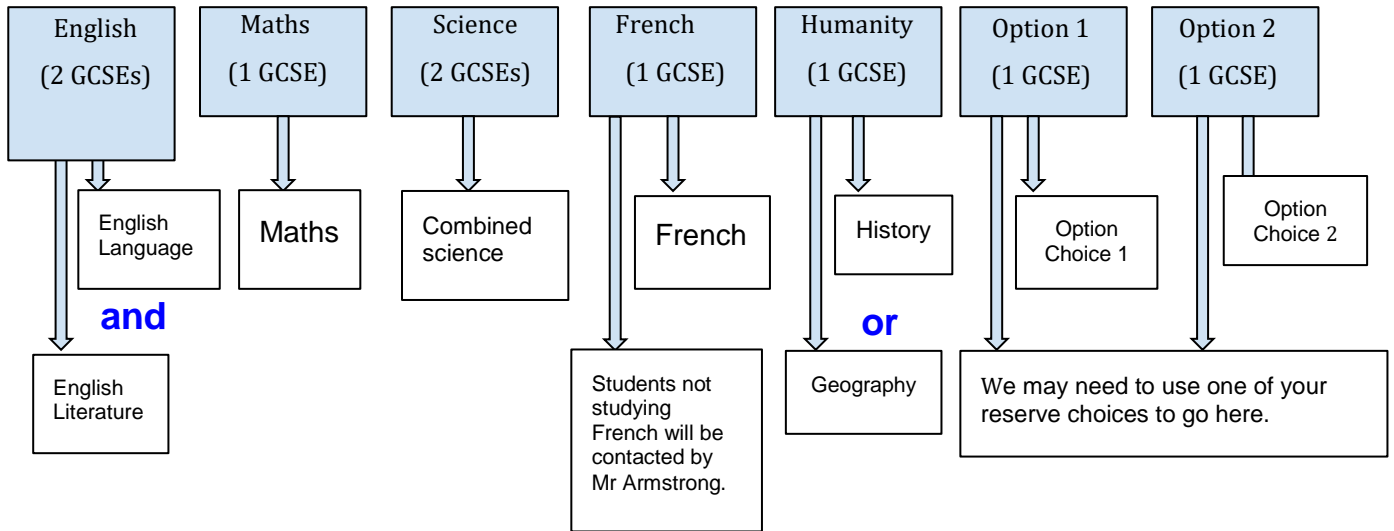
You can choose to study either History or Geography. However, if you like both, you may choose both.

Why is French a core subject for most of us?

To achieve the English Baccalaureate (**EBacc**) you must take a modern foreign language. You will not receive a unique award for taking the Ebacc. However, the English Baccalaureate is the gold standard suite of GCSE and ensures you are following a balanced curriculum. Top universities (Russell Group Universities) also look favourably upon students who have studied a language. Learning a language does not just enable you to communicate with millions of people across the globe, it has also been shown to improve your ability to learn new skills.

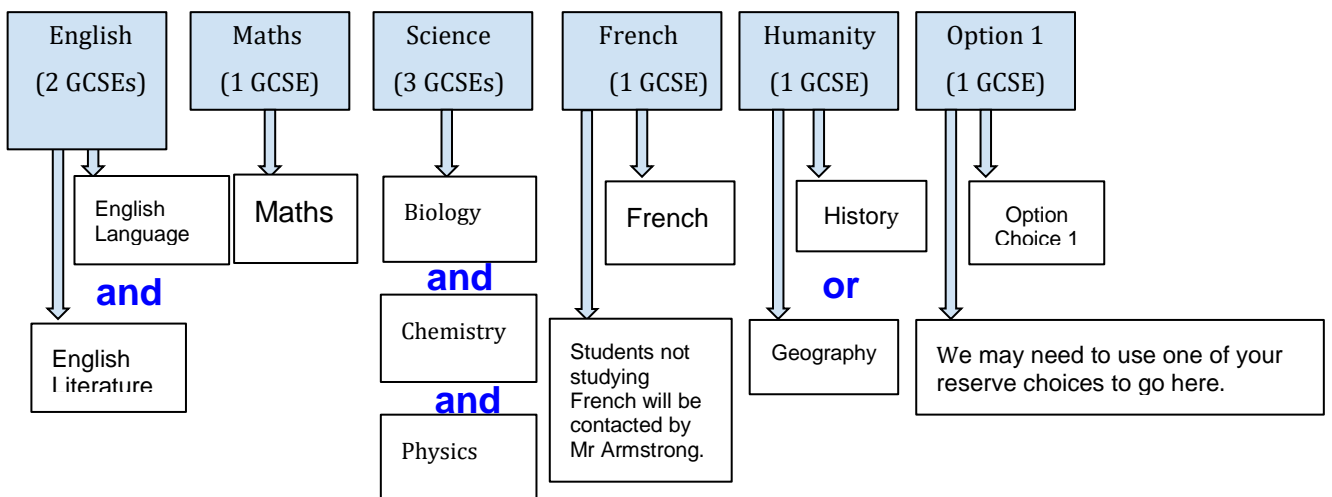
What combination of subjects do I take?

You must study a combination of subjects listed on the diagram below:



Separate Sciences

Many of you will want to pursue a career in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) based field. To support students for whom this is an aspiration, we are now offering separate sciences as a GCSE option. Here you will take 3 science GCSEs: Biology; Chemistry and Physics. Your combination of GCSEs is shown on the diagram below:



Please note, the separate science choice is an academically challenging option. Only students aiming for the top **grades*** in science will be considered for the course.

*Top GCSE grades here are students aiming for a grade 7, or above. In year 9, this is currently students achieving a grade on the mastering flight path.

Who can help me choose?

- Subject Teachers – who can give you some idea about your ability in the subject, and more detailed information about the subject.
- Your parents/carers – who know you best of all.
- The Careers Advisor - can show you details about entrance requirements to different areas of work.
- Your Tutor or Mrs Easterbrook (Head of Key Stage 3) – can support you with your choices.
- Mr Armstrong (Assistant Head teacher) – can talk to you about the options process.

When do I choose?

The option form is a google form. It will be sent to your school email address on **Friday the 1st March**. The form may be completed at home; however, you will need to be signed in to your school email address to complete the form.

The deadline for the choices form is **Thursday the 14th March**. We can support students to complete the form in school, for those students who do not have IT facilities at home.

Staff will then examine your choices and we will contact you to sort out any immediate issues that arise.

Option Subjects

Below are the option subjects we are offering for our 2024-26 GCSE cohort.

Art & Design (GCSE)	Health and Fitness (V Cert)
NCFE Business Studies (V Cert)	History (GCSE)
Design Technology (GCSE)	Media Studies (GCSE)
Drama (GCSE)	Music (GCSE)
Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)	Separate Science (GCSE)
French (GCSE)	Statistics (GCSE)
Geography (GCSE)	

Details for each of these option subjects is available in this booklet from page 9 onwards.

Controlled Assessment, Coursework and Homework

Controlled Assessment and Coursework

Controlled Assessments are done throughout the two-year courses in some subjects. Each assessment counts towards the final exam mark. These are extended pieces of work done in class under teacher supervision and have replaced coursework in many subjects. Coursework also still forms an important part of some Key Stage 4 courses.

Students are advised of the demands of each subject and will have to organise their study programmes accordingly. Coursework requirements will vary between oral work, practical work, and the more extended project work. Some subjects have coursework and controlled assessments in Year 10. Further details of significant coursework will be found in the subject details of this booklet.

Demands are greatest in the autumn and spring terms of Year 11 and parents are asked to be conscious of workloads and to support their child as best they can. With a carefully planned work programme, no student should feel unnecessary stress.

Homework

The Homework Policy requires homework to be set regularly for all GCSE subjects during KS4. Core subjects will set a homework task every week; options subjects will get a task every fortnight. The nature of the task will still vary between subjects. Some activities will be designed to consolidate in class learning and others may require students to conduct research independently. Tasks may be set online or as a worksheet/booklet. Self-discipline and careful time-management become more and more important for students and we ask that parents support and encourage their child to develop these skills. Parents can do this by viewing what has been set on the Talaxy Portal and checking that their children have been completing this work in a timely fashion. All students can attend homework club, which runs every day after school until 16.15.

GCSE Art and Design (Fine Art)

Awarding body: AQA

Subject Exam Code: 8202

For further information please contact: Miss A Hart

Use the email address:
ahart@stdunstansschool.com

Content

In this course, you will explore a wide variety of media and techniques, including both traditional and new technologies. You will explore the work of other artists, crafts people and designers from the past and more recent times. You will explore a range of artists from different cultures, backgrounds and ideologies.

You will have the opportunity to develop your own ideas within a sequence of planned activities and project themes. The use of a sketchbook is central to the course and will be used to present research on the work of other artists, crafts people and designers, experiment with materials, techniques, and record ideas through drawing and photography. You will also write about your ideas and annotate your work as it progresses. Your sketchbook will support a personal response for each project theme.

Typically, three course work projects will be completed before preparing for the timed test.

Assessment

Examination: 40% - 10 hour timed piece plus supporting preparation work - Year 11: term 3.

Coursework: 60% - Includes classwork, extended learning and sketchbook activity.

Contribution: A list of equipment will be given out that will benefit the student's progression. A contribution of £4.50 is required for the sketchbook provided.

Key to Success

Attributes: You need to be creative, well organised and be capable of good time management. It is a portfolio-based qualification and steady consistent work over two years is important. You will need to dedicate at least 2 hours of home study each week.

Interests: The arts, graphic design, visual culture, photography, textiles, 3D, clay and sculpture.

Progression

Academic: A Level, Art & Design, A Level - Applied Art.

Applied: BTEC, Creative & Media Diploma.

Employment: Graphic Designer, Interior Designer, Illustrator, Fine Artist, Teacher, Artist, Photographer.

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise

Awarding body: NCFE

Subject Exam Code: 603/7004/X

For further information please contact: Mr J Waugh

Use the email address:
jwaugh@stdunstansschool.com

Content

This course is engaging and inspiring and reflects the demands of a truly modern and evolving business environment. It is designed for learners who want an introduction to business and enterprise that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the business and enterprise sector or progress onto further study.

This qualification will promote the learner's understanding of:

- Entrepreneurial characteristics and business aims and objectives.
- Business organisation, legal structures and stakeholder engagement.
- Market research, market types, marketing mix and market orientation.
- Human resource requirements for business and enterprise.
- Operations management.
- Business growth.
- Sources of enterprise funding and business finance.
- The impact of the external environment on business and enterprise.

Assessment:

40% Exam - The written examined assessment will assess the learner's knowledge and understanding of all content areas and target assessment objectives. It comprises a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer and extended response questions. The exam is worth a maximum of 80 marks and lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes. This assessment takes place during the summer exam period of Year 11.

60% Internally Assessed Synoptic Assessment - This assessment takes place once the key content has been delivered and will assess the learner's ability to effectively draw their knowledge, understanding and skills from across the whole specification as they apply it to a business case study. This assessment is worth 120 marks and will be completed during lessons. This takes place in the first 2 terms of Year 11.

Keys to Success

Attributes: Analytical thinking skills; developing an evaluative approach to decision making; analysis of current data and trends to inform decision making; modelling and forecasting; teamwork and collaboration; researching; questioning.

Interests: Almost every profession will rely on the valuable skills that you will learn in the business studies course including Entrepreneurship; Management; Tradesperson; Finance; Retail; Marketing; Business Ownership; and Hospitality.

Progression

Academic: A Level Business Studies, BTEC Business Studies

Applied: Managing Businesses, working in Self Employment or in a Corporate Environment.

Employment: Retail, Production or Self-Employment.

GCSE Design and Technology

Awarding body: AQA

Subject Exam Code: 8552

For further information please contact: Mrs H Potter

Use the email address:
hpotter@stdunstansschool.com

Content

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world.

Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

Our GCSE allows students to study core technical, 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.

Assessment

Paper 1 - Content studied throughout year 10

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

NEA - Classroom based assessment, starting term 6 of year 10

- Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approx.
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE
- Task(s)
 - Substantial design and make task
 - Assessment criteria:
 - Identifying and investigating design possibilities
 - Producing a design brief and specification
 - Generating design ideas
 - Developing design ideas
 - Realising design ideas
 - Analysing & evaluating

Keys to Success

Attributes: Creativity and being able to think outside the box. Practically minded.

Interests: Product design, architecture, making 3D products.

Progression

Academic: Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Art and Design, A Level Design and Technology, A Level (3D) Product Design, Apprenticeships in creative and digital media, T Level in Digital Production and Design Development.

Employment: Product designer, Architect, 3D designer, CAD/CAM, Graphic Designer, Product Developer.

Drama

Awarding body: Eduqas

Subject Exam Code: C690QS

For further information please contact: Mrs J Pulford

Use the email address:

jpulford@stdunstansschool.com

Content

Devising Theatre – 40%

- Internally assessed and externally moderated.
- Performance – A realisation of a piece of devised theatre.
- Portfolio – A portfolio of supporting evidence.
- Evaluation – An evaluation of the final performance or design.

Performing from a text – 20%

- Practical exam – An externally assessed performance of two extracts from the same text – technical project or performance.

Interpreting Theatre – 40%

- Written exam – Set text questions and a live theatre review (Students are expected to see at least two pieces of live theatre as a course requirement).

Assessment

Examination: 40% Written exam.

Practical Work: 60% Practical Performances, Written Portfolio.

Keys to Success

Attributes: Hard work and determination, willingness to get involved (especially with out of lesson time rehearsals) and take responsibility. It is a demanding and challenging course and you must understand that you will get out of it what you put in.

Interests: An overall interest in other creative subjects such as Music and Art and Design can be useful and it links well to subjects such as History, Design Technology and English.

Progression

Academic: A Level, Drama and Theatre Studies.

Applied: BTEC, Performing Arts Extended Diploma.

Employment: Actor, Director, Theatre Designer, Community Arts Worker, Drama Therapist, Broadcaster.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Awarding body: Eduqas

Subject Exam Code: C560P1

For further information please contact: Mrs H Potter

Use the email address:
hpotter@stdunstansschool.com

Content

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

The course allows for the full range of food preparation skills to be demonstrated and to gain an understanding of the properties and working characteristics of food and the food and catering industry.

You will also be involved in practical investigative research as well as developing and sustaining your own innovative and creative design in food. You will be encouraged to handle food every week in order to develop your own skills and knowledge.

Assessment

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)	Written Exam
2 x Practical based assignments (Controlled Assessment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 15% Food investigation assessment (Food science task) ● 35% Food preparation assessment (Three-course meal) 	1 x Written exam = 50% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All content for the exam will be covered in year 10.

Keys to Success	Progression
<p>Attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enjoys practical work and handling food as a material. ● Enjoys looking at the scientific properties and functions of ingredients ● Having an interest in diet, health and nutrition ● Independent thinking and ability to make decisions. ● Being creative with food and able to communicate design ideas and knowledge. <p>Interests: An interest in food, food science, diet, nutrition, design, creativity, environmental issues and the food industry would be useful.</p>	<p>Academic: A-Level Food Science and Nutrition.</p> <p>Applied: Food Production and Cooking (Apprenticeship), Hospitality (Level 2 & 3).</p> <p>Employment: Chef, Food photographer, Business owner in the restaurant industry, Product developer, Food production and manufacturing, Managerial work in the restaurant industry, Dietician, Nutritionist, Sports therapist.</p>

French

Awarding body: AQA

Subject Exam Code: 8652

For further information please contact:
Mrs S Easterbrook or Mr Ward

Email address: iward@stdunstansschool.com
seasterbrook@stdunstansschool.com

Content

The aim of French GCSE is to develop your ability to understand and communicate in the language and much of the specification develops and extends the content covered in lower school. The course is practical, teaching you not only the language but also an insight into the life and customs of French speaking countries. GCSEs in languages are highly valued and sought after by both universities and employers not only for the linguistic skills but also for the communication and problem-solving skills you will develop when studying a language at GCSE.

The topics covered are as follows:

Theme 1: People and lifestyle: Identity and relationships with others, Healthy living and lifestyle, Education and work.

Theme 2: Popular culture: Free-time activities, Customs, festivals and celebrations, Celebrity culture.

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us: Travel and tourism, including places of interest, Media and technology, the environment and where people live

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening	25%	(Foundation 35 mins/Higher 45 Mins)
Paper 2: Speaking	25%	(Foundation 7-9 mins/ Higher 10-12 mins)
Paper 3: Reading	25%	(Foundation 45 mins/ Higher 1 hour)
Paper 4: Writing	25%	(Foundation 1 hour 10 mins/ Higher 1 hour 15 mins)

Keys to Success

Attributes: Organised with notes and equipment, good at regular homework and prepared to 'have a go'.

Progression

Academic: Part of EBacc, showing that students who do well at French or other language GCSE should go to university. A/AS Level, French, Additional Languages

Applied: BTEC Courses

Employment: Anything! Tourism, media, engineering, personnel, communications, teaching, business, foreign office, charities and more. Also, working abroad.

Geography

Awarding body: AQA

Subject Exam Code: 8035

For further information please contact: Mrs Manning

Use the email address:
jmanning@stdunstansschool.com

Content: Students will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use.

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment:

- The challenge of natural hazards (earthquakes, volcanoes, weather hazards and climate change)
- The living world (ecosystems, tropical rainforests and cold environments)
- Physical landscapes in the UK (rivers and coasts)

Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment

- Urban issues and challenges (cities, shanty towns)
- The changing economic world (economic development, differences between countries)
- The challenge of resource management (resource management and energy supplies)

Unit 3: Geographical applications

- Issue evaluation - a resource booklet will be available twelve weeks before the date of the exam so that students have the opportunity to work through the resources.
- Fieldwork - students need to undertake **two geographical enquiries**, each of which must include the use of primary data, collected as part of a fieldwork exercise.

Assessment

Exam: 100% - 3 x 1 ½ hour examinations

Keys to Success

Attributes: Enthusiasm for the subject. An ability to express ideas and concepts. A very good level of literacy.

Interests: Learning about people, their societies, economies, cultures & the environment.

Progression

Academic: A/AS Level Geography, Geology, Environmental Sciences or Economics

Applied: Countryside and Wildlife Management, Travel and Tourism, Science

Employment: Marketing, Architecture, Finance, Education, Law, Environmental Awareness, Civil Service, Travel, Journalism

Health and fitness

Awarding body: NCFE: Level 1/2 technical award in health and fitness

Subject Specification Code:
603/7007/5

For further information please contact:
Miss Pengelly

Use the email address:
cpengelly@stdunstansschool.com

Content

This qualification aims to:

- Focus on the study of the health and fitness sector
- Offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a key core of knowledge.
- Provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills.

Content Areas

This qualification consists of 8 content areas.

- Structure and function of body systems.
- Effects of health and fitness activities on the body.
- Health, fitness, and the components of fitness.
- Principles of training.
- Testing and developing components of fitness.
- Impact of lifestyle on health and fitness.
- Applying health and fitness analysis and setting goals.
- Structure of a health and fitness programme and how to prepare safe.

Assessment

- 1 x Mandatory EA (externally assessed) unit (written exam) - **40%** of overall grade.
- 1 x Mandatory NEA (Non-examined assessment) unit - **60%** of overall grade

Keys to Success

Attributes: Proven track record of full participation in PE throughout Key Stage 3 in both curriculum and extracurricular activity. Resilience, organisation and a **willingness to take responsibility for learning**. Developing **responsibility for deadlines** and determination for completing tasks. Preferably participating in sport outside of school.

Interests: Sport and Physical Activity. Knowledge about keeping active and living a healthy lifestyle.

Progression

Academic: A/AS Level PE.

Applied: BTEC National Diploma in Sport or Public Services.

Employment: Teacher/Coach, Physiotherapist, Sports Development, Personal Trainer, Gym Instructor, Media/Advertising, Leisure Industry, Police, Fireman, Sports Management.

History

Awarding body: AQA

Subject Exam Code: Paper 1)AB,BC
Paper 2)AA, BC

For further information please contact:
Mr Brown

Use the email address:
gbrown@stdunstansschool.com

Content: This course provides you with the opportunity to study the dilemmas, choices and beliefs of people in the past. You will be encouraged to critically examine past events, and make sense of our ancestors' decisions. You will also be given the opportunity to see how the past continues to affect our future, and make links between our history and the World around us.

We look at four topics that include Weimar and Nazi Germany 1919-39; Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day, Elizabeth I and The Cold War.

An in-depth study is under-taken of each topic, with each unit being approached in a slightly different way. For example, the social impact of the Nazis is examined - how everyday life in Germany was affected by extremism. International relations and worldwide politics are examined in the Cold War unit. Tudor England looks at British History by examining the rule of Elizabeth, and the threats she faced. The thematic study of health will enable students to gain an understanding of how medicine and public health developed in Britain over a long period. It considers the causes, scale, nature and consequences of short and long-term developments, and how they affected British society.

Assessment - The course is 100% exam based with 2 exams in total

Paper 1: Two hours

Section A – six compulsory questions (40 marks)

Section B – four compulsory questions (40 marks)

Plus 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar

Paper 2: Two hours

Section A – four compulsory questions (40 marks)

Section B – four compulsory questions (40 marks)

Plus 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar

Keys to Success

Attributes: Able to research and think for yourself, not just find out the facts. Think about the causes and consequences of events. Able to use and interpret different sources of information. Enjoy debating and challenging your own, and other people's ideas. A reasonable level of literacy. Mind-set to work hard independently.

Interests: Current affairs, politics, the social background and culture of different people, finding out about why things happened and the results of what happened, human nature.

Progression

Academic: A/AS Level History, Archaeology, Politics, Sociology, Law

Employment: Accountancy, law, banking, advertising, marketing, teaching, IT, business and finance, civil service, journalism.

Media Studies

Awarding body: Eduqas

Subject Exam Code: C680Q

For further information please contact:
Mrs K Gregory

Use the email address:
kgregory@stdunstansschool.com

Content

The Media – television, newspapers, radio and the internet – are a central element in our modern technology driven world. GCSE Media Studies offers you a framework in which to develop your knowledge of the media, to understand the opinions of other people and to engage in debate about all forms of media. Most of our information about the world comes from the media and they are a central feature in the way we entertain ourselves.

Media Studies will develop opportunities for you to find out about, analyse different media, and explore through practical and production work the different ways in which they make meanings available to a variety of audiences. All of this depends on your own attitudes and beliefs. It is a demanding course and involves plenty of individual study as well as teamwork.

Current set texts include:

- Fortnite
- GQ Magazine / Vogue Magazine
- Quality Street advert
- This Girl Can advert
- No Time to Die / The Man with the Golden Gun film poster
- The Archers
- Music video (Lizzo, Justin Bieber, TLC)
- Crime Dramas: Luther and The Sweeney

Sample Assessment Tasks

Examination: 70% exam topic specified by exam board - 2 x 1hr 30min exams

Non Examined Assessment: 30% - example tasks below:

Television: Create an opening sequence for a new television programme or a website to promote a new television programme for a teen audience.

Advertising and Marketing: Create a music video or a website to promote a new artist/band. Print-based marketing material for a new film (DVD cover and film poster)

Magazines: Create the front cover and a double page spread for a new print or online magazine.

Keys to Success

Attributes: An inquisitive mind and a desire to ask questions about the world and especially about how the modern media influences them. Practical skills such as photography, filming, Computer editing and journalism.

Interests: Interest in current affairs and the media in general.

Progression

Academic: A/AS Level - Media Studies, Communication Studies, Film Studies, Photography

Applied: First BTEC & National Diplomas in Media & Multi Media Production

Employment: The media, including television, radio and print industries.

Music

Awarding body: OCR**Subject Exam Code:** J536*For further information please contact:* Mrs N HoptonUse the email address:
nhopton@stdunstansschool.com**Content****Performance:** A solo and group performance on instrument or voice. They demonstrate their playing skills and abilities by practising and performing a piece musically, accurately and with appropriate interpretation.**Composition:** You will produce two compositions using Logic Pro software. One is free choice and the other based on a set of criteria from the exam board. In the composition element of this component, they demonstrate knowledge of composition techniques, use of musical elements and resources, including specific instrumental and technology techniques.**Areas of study:**

1. My music
2. The concerto through time
3. Rhythms of the world
4. Film music
5. Conventions of pop

Assessment overview

Component	Marks	Duration	Weighting	
INTEGRATED PORTFOLIO (01 OR 02)	60	-	30%	Non-exam assessment
PRACTICAL COMPONENT (03 OR 04)	60	-	30%	Non-exam assessment
LISTENING AND APPRAISING (05)	80	1 hour 30 mins	40%	

Keys to Success**Attributes:** Teamwork, Independent enquirers, effective participators, reflective learners, self-managers, creative thinkers.**Interests:** This is a creative and expressive course. The practical work is pupil led. It will give you a sound knowledge of the music curriculum and is a good course for independent working.**Progression****Academic:** A/AS Level - Music**Applied:** BTEC Extended Diploma Level 3**Employment:** Performer, musician, composer, sound engineer, teacher, music journalist

Separate Science	
Awarding body: AQA	Subject Exam Code: 8461/2/3
For further information please contact: Ms C Hutchinson	Use the email address: cthomason@stdunstansschool.com
Content	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learning skills to investigate the material world and understand the applications to real life. ● Use experimental skills and strategies to understand scientific theories and explanations to develop hypotheses. ● Develop scientific thinking to understand how scientific methods and theories develop over time. ● Analyse and evaluate data by presenting observations, translating data from one form to another and carrying out mathematical and statistical analysis. ● Understand and explain every day and technological applications of science along with associated personal, social, economic and environmental applications. ● Appreciate the power and limitations of science and consider ethical implications that may arise. 	
Assessment	
<p>Examination: the qualification is assessed in the June Exam series of year 11. Students sit two examination papers for each science discipline. Each paper is 105 minutes long.</p> <p>Grade allocation: Grades are given for each individual science discipline and each examination contributes 50% of the grade.</p>	
Key to Success	
<p>Attributes: A good application of numeracy and literacy, a positive work ethic and ability to analyse and evaluate.</p> <p>Interests: A strong affinity to all of the science disciplines and interest in discovering, identifying and developing new ideas.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Academic: A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. A Levels in Environmental Science, A Levels and BTEC in associated science subjects including forensic science, sports studies, nursing and physiotherapy.</p> <p>Applied: The study of science can develop the ability to analyse, understand and apply data that is used across a wide variety of courses.</p> <p>Employment: Science is a foundation for all medical, biochemical, sporting and technological careers.</p>	

Statistics	
Awarding body: Edexcel	Subject Exam Code: 1ST0
For further information please contact: Mr R Conway	Use the email address: rconway@stdunstansschool.com
Content	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The use of statistical techniques in a variety of authentic investigations, using real-world data in contexts such as, but not limited to, populations, climate, sales etc. ● Identifying trends through carrying out appropriate calculations and data visualisation techniques. ● The application of statistical techniques across the curriculum, in subjects such as the sciences, social sciences, computing, geography, business and economics, and outside the classroom in the world in general. ● Critically evaluating data, calculations and evaluations that would be commonly encountered in their studies and in everyday life. ● Understanding how technology has enabled the collection, visualisation and analysis of large quantities of data to inform decision-making processes in public, commercial and academic sectors, including how technology can be used to generate diagrams and visualisations to represent data. ● Understand ways that data can be organised, processed and presented, including statistical measures to compare data, understanding the advantages of using technology to automate processing. ● Applying appropriate mathematical and statistical formulae, and building on prior knowledge. 	
Assessment	
Examination: the qualification is assessed in the June Exam series of year 11. Students sit two examination papers. Both papers are 90 minutes long and each contributes 50% of the overall grade. Students may use a calculator in both papers.	
Key to Success	
Attributes: A strong grasp of numeracy and a positive work ethic.	
Interests: A keen interest in exploring the collection, application and representation of data.	
Progression	
Academic: A level Maths. A level Further Maths. An A level in science or social science. A level Business Studies. A level Economics. BTEC Business Studies.	
Applied: Statistics can be applied in almost every field of work. Statistics is used to inform decisions in the sciences, social sciences, computing, geography, business and economics. At a basic level, households managing their finances use statistics.	
Employment: The primary function of analysts, data managers and many administrators is to work with data to generate valuable statistics. Senior leaders including managers and directors who need to evaluate the performance of the organisations they are leading require a strong grasp of statistics.	

English Language & English Literature

Awarding body: AQA

Subject Exam Code: 8700 and 8702

For further information please contact:
Mrs K Gregory

Use the email address:
kgregory@stdunstansschool.com

Content

Students will follow a course that leads to two qualifications - one in English Language and one in English Literature.

What will you be doing?

You will be given the chance to say what you think and write what you mean, as well as expressing what you feel about a variety of texts. There will be two exam papers: Paper 1 will incorporate analysis of a 19th or early 20th century literary fiction text extract and a descriptive or narrative writing task. Paper 2 will include analysis of nonfiction texts from the 19th, 20th and/or 21st centuries and writing to present a point of view.

In English Literature you will study a range of texts including a play by Shakespeare, studied in conjunction with a text from the English Literary Heritage specifically 19th century fiction such as Jekyll and Hyde, A Christmas Carol and Sherlock Holmes; a modern text such as Animal Farm and An Inspector Calls and a range of poetry from the exam board's anthology. The exam will also feature a section on analysing and comparing unseen poetry.

Assessment

Examination: For **English Language**, each paper will be worth 50% of the final exam grade. All students will sit the same exam. Two papers lasting 1 hour 45 minutes assessing quality of reading and writing skills.

For **English Literature**, Paper 1 (Shakespeare and the 19th century novel) will be worth 40% of the final Literature grade and Paper 2 (Modern text and Poetry) will be worth 60% of the final grade.

Controlled Assessment: There are no controlled assessments in English so grades will be awarded solely on performance in the exam. Papers are not tiered and students will achieve grades 9-1.

Spoken Language Endorsement: All students will be assessed on the quality of their communication and presentation skills. This will take the form of a presentation to a group or teacher. They will be graded at Pass, Merit or Distinction. AQA requires all presentations to be recorded.

Keys to Success

Attributes: Competence in reading, writing and speaking and listening are essential skills for this course. Reading a wide range of quality fiction will be good preparation for the course.

Progression

Academic: A Level Literature, A Level Language

Applied: Extended Project Qualification

Employment: Publishing, Law Journalist, Editor, Proof reader, Copywriter, Speech Therapy, Researcher, Teacher, Advertising, Marketing, PR, Human Resources, Media.

Mathematics

Awarding body: Edexcel

Subject Exam Code: 1MA1

For further information please contact: Mr R Conway

Use the email address:
rconway@stdunstansschool.com

Content: Knowledge and Understanding

The aims and objectives of the Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9 - 1) in Mathematics are to enable students to:

- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.
- acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions.
- comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

The list below outlines the topic areas covered in this qualification and the topic area weightings for the assessment of the Foundation tier and the assessment of the Higher tier.

Foundation

Number 25%
Algebra 20%
Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change 25%
Geometry and Measures 15%
Statistics & Probability 15%

Higher

Number 15%
Algebra 30%
Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change 20%
Geometry and Measures 20%
Statistics & Probability 15%

Assessment is solely via examination: The qualification consists of three equally weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier. Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment. On Paper 2 and Paper 3, students are permitted to use a calculator. Each paper is 90 minutes long. The content outlined for each tier will be assessed across all three papers. Each paper has a range of question types, some questions will be set in both mathematical and non-mathematical contexts. New knowledge, skills and understanding will be tested at both tiers. The qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine-grade scale from 9 to 1 using the total mark across all three papers where 9 is the highest grade. Individual papers are not graded. Foundation tier: grades 1 to 5. Higher tier: grades 4 to 9.

Keys to Success

Attributes: Thinking for oneself and not just learning the facts. Enjoy debating and challenging your own ideas.

Interests: An enquiring and analytical mind. Ability to question and evaluate. A desire to put maths into context.

Progression

This qualification prepares students for progression to further study of mathematics at AS and A level, and to the study of Core Mathematics. GCSE Mathematics is a requirement for progression to a wide range of courses at Level 3.

Philosophy & Belief / Personal Social Health Economic Education

For further information please contact: Mrs J Manning

Use the email address:

jmanning@stdunstansschool.com

Content

The course will cover the following topics in Philosophy & Belief:

1. **Worldviews - Philosophical and Religious**
2. **Ethics - the study of Right and Wrong**
3. **Truth, Reality and Free Will**
4. **Prejudice and Discrimination**
5. **Genetic Engineering & Equality**
6. **Artificial Intelligence, Life & Death and Meaning & Purpose**

The course will cover the following topics in Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education:

1. **Health & Wellbeing**
2. **Social Issues and the Justice System**
3. **Relationships & Sex Education**
4. **The Wider World**

This course will encourage students to:

- Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to real world issues.
- Reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in light of their learning, in preparation for life in a global community.
- Express their personal responses and informed insights on key questions and issues about identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values and commitments.
- Enhance their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, their understanding of different cultures nationally and in the wider world.
- Develop their interest in and their enthusiasm for the study of worldviews, and relate it to the wider world.
- Develop students' knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism.
- Explore the significance and impact of beliefs, teachings, sources, practices, ways of life and forms of expressing meaning.
- Construct well-informed and balanced arguments on matters concerned with ethics, religious beliefs and values.
- Be well-informed citizens who understand the rights and responsibilities of living in a democracy.
- Develop understanding of fundamental British Values.
- Develop understanding of healthy lifestyles and the impact of the choices we make.
- Explore careers education to enable students to be successful and fulfil their ambitions.
- This course meets the statutory requirements for the teaching of PSHE at KS4.

Assessment: This course is not examined.

Attributes: Thinking for yourself and not just learning facts. Enjoy debating and challenging ideas.

Interests: Current affairs, travel, sociology, culture, history, psychology, philosophy, media or politics.

Science (Combined Science)

Awarding body: AQA Trilogy

Subject Exam Code: 8464

For further information please contact: Mrs C Thomason

Use the email address:
cthomason@stdunstansschool.com

Content

Combined science is a qualification that will be studied by all students during key stage 4. Students will achieve 2 GCSEs. The GCSE grades will be an average from all 6 examinations taken at the end of year 11.

The course covers all three disciplines of science; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each of these subject areas is split into a number of topic areas, which will be taught, in a specified order to allow students to harness the new skills and knowledge and develop their knowledge throughout Key Stage 4.

There will be no controlled assessment or coursework; instead, there will be a number of practical tasks completed during the course with questions relating to them included in the final examinations.

Students will sit 6 terminal exams at the end of year 11- 2 in biology, chemistry and physics. All exams will be 75 minutes in duration and contribute 16.7% to the final grades.

The exams are tiered. Students will be entered into either foundation or higher tiers. Students who complete the foundation tier can achieve a maximum grade of a 5. Grades for the higher tiers range from 4-9. It is not possible to have different tier entries for each science. For example, it is not possible to sit the foundation papers for Biology and the higher papers for Chemistry and Physics.

Assessment

Examination: 100%

- 6 terminal exams at the end of year 11.
- Each exam is 1h 15 minutes and worth 70 marks
- Each exam contributes 16.7% to the final grade
- Consists of 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics exams
- Papers are a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions.

Progression:

Academic: A Level Sciences/University courses in a STEM subject

Applied: BTEC Course

Employment: Many STEM careers.

Student support available during Key Stage 4

Some students in KS4 may need additional support at times during this phase. The support that we can offer to students includes:

- Additional adult support in lessons (as part of an EHCP provision)
- Personalised Social Skills Interventions (small groups or 1:1)
- Speech and Language Interventions
- Literacy and Numeracy support

KS4 support packages are mainly delivered outside of lesson time to minimise the impact on GCSE lessons.

During the Autumn Term in Year 10, students may be assessed for exam concessions, also called access arrangements. Once a need is identified then these concessions will apply to all assessed work throughout the Key Stage. These concessions, which can include access to a reader/scribe and/or extra time, will then be applied to all formal assessments throughout the key stage.

Jargon Buster

AS/A Level

The level of academic courses that follow on from GCSE.

EBacc (English Baccalaureate)

A governmental term used to describe students that have achieved good GCSE passes in English, Maths, Science, a language and a humanities subject.

Module

A self-contained unit of work. Modules often end with a test or other assessment. They link together to form a whole course of study. They are marked in school and then moderated (see below).

Controlled Assessment

Controlled Assessment has replaced coursework. Although the principle is the same, i.e. an extended assignment, the work has to be produced under supervised conditions in school, usually within a time limit set by the Awarding Body. They are marked in school and then moderated (see below).

Examinations Board/Awarding Body

The organisation that sets exams and awards qualifications. The exam boards we use at St Dunstan's School are AQA, Edexcel, OCR and WJEC.

Moderation

The process at the end of a course where a representative of the Exam Board to ensure the school's marking inspects Controlled Assessments and portfolios is in line with national standards.

F.E.

Stands for Further Education. Courses are usually for two years and lead to AS/A Levels of an advanced vocational qualification. Higher Education follows on from Further Education: study is usually at a University and results in a Degree in your chosen subject.

BTEC / V CERT

These are styles of qualification focused on vocational learning. An excellent choice for progression into further vocational studies or apprenticeship.

Vocational

A curriculum that is aimed at promoting work related learning. Vocation qualifications will have a greater focus on applied knowledge that is directly aimed at entering the world of work or apprenticeships.