



NORTHAMPTON
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

GCSE Years programme Guide

2024-25



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The GCSE Years at Northampton High School

Although Year 10 is some months away, now is the time to begin looking forward to the four-year journey upon which you are about to embark. That journey begins with the GCSE years and ends with you leaving to pursue a gap year, university course, apprenticeship, or a job via the exciting two years in Sixth Form.

This guide will help you decide which subjects you will be taking for GCSE as well as giving you some details of those courses. I hope you will give careful consideration to the range of subjects available and make your choices according to your specific interests and talents. However, if you are finding difficulties in making your decisions, talk to your teachers, your Form tutor, Miss Fraser, Mrs Down or Mrs Forsyth, our Careers Coordinator and, of course, your parents. Please listen carefully to the advice you are given.

2026 and GCSE examinations may seem a long time away, but you will find that the weeks and months will disappear all too quickly. For that reason, it is essential to make a positive start in each of your subjects right from the first day. During your GCSE years, you will gain some good advice about study techniques, deadlines, coursework, taking notes and generally keeping on top of your work. Remember that staff will guide you and assist you in whatever way they can, but at GCSE we expect you to take more responsibility for your progress in each of your subjects. However, if you are finding difficulties in a subject, please do talk to that member of staff, your Form Tutor or your Head of Year.

Diligence at home and at School throughout your GCSE years will bring success. Therefore, we expect you to work hard, but we also emphasise how important it is to find time to get involved in activities both in and out of School. We know as well that you will want to meet up with friends after school and at weekends. It is possible with good organisation, to make time for work, activities, and friends; however, it is essential to find a sensible balance.

Parties and going out with friends should be kept for weekends and holidays (and even then, time should be set aside for study) and during term time, priority must be given to schoolwork. At all times, you should not allow social media to distract you.

The staff and I wish you well as you make your GCSE choices, and we know that you will give of your best. We look forward very much to assisting you to achieve your potential.

Good luck and best wishes.

Dr May Lee | Head

Made for Girls



Choosing your GCSEs

Our tutors and subject teachers have many years of experience helping students make the right choices at GCSE and A Level. They will be your guides in this process and will be on hand whenever you have any questions or worries.

How will I make my choices with the future in mind?

Although you may well have a general idea of the area you would like to move into, it is very usual to be uncertain of your future career at this stage. Many people change their minds several times along the way. Your time in school, especially in Year 10 and above, is preparing you for life as a global citizen, voter, neighbour and parent as well as a life of work, but don't worry, you will have plenty of support and advice to help you find the right path for you personally through all these challenges.

As a student it is important that you keep two things in mind. Firstly, have you left as many doors as possible open to career choices? The compulsory core helps you to do this. A broad-based education is attractive to future employers and to admissions tutors in Higher Education.

Don't forget, GCSE results will be taken into consideration along with A Levels when you are looking at universities and beyond. When you are thinking about choices, you should ask yourself the following questions:

Which are the right subjects to choose?

- Those you are good at
- Those you may need for a future career
- Those you like and enjoy

Which are the wrong subjects to choose?

- Those you choose because your friend is doing them
- Those you choose only because you like the teacher

Don't rule out a subject because you don't get on with a teacher.

Do take advice from your subject, careers and form teachers.

Don't accept decisions made for you by others, however well meaning.

Do discuss your choices with your parents. Remember that, ultimately, your choices must be the ones that feel right for you.

Option choices & important dates

Art, Craft & Design
Computer Science
Drama
Fashion & Textiles
Food Prep & Nutrition
Geography
History
Latin
Music
Physical Education
Religious Studies

GCSE Information Evening:

Wednesday 10
January 2024

Year 9 Parents' Evening:

Thursday 18
January 2024

Option choices made online:

19-26 January 2024

Can I take any additional GCSEs?

The timetable is designed carefully to ensure the right academic balance is made between the subjects. It is not possible to add an extra option into the timetable. However, occasionally students wish to take an alternative Modern Language at GCSE because they have a family connection and already have a high degree of proficiency in the language. In these cases, it is possible to consider substituting an optional subject, in consultation with the Academic Deputy Head.

How will my timetable look?

There is GCSE overview information for each subject later in this booklet. At times there are changes to the specifications and we will always ensure you are kept up to date. Remember, you can also find the courses on the internet by going to the relevant exam board websites.

Which GCSE subjects are compulsory?

All students will study English, English Literature, Mathematics and the three sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will also choose at least one Modern Language from French, German or Spanish. You may choose to study the Sciences as separate GCSEs or as a dual science award.

The Dual Science award is worth two GCSEs but is still taught as three separate sciences by specialist teachers. There is no need to decide yet whether you want to take the separate or Dual Science option as everyone does the same course to start with. We will help you make this decision in Year 11.

How many GCSE subjects will I study?

In total, most students will study 9 GCSEs, with students choosing separate sciences having the option of studying 10.

How many lessons will I have in each subject?

GCSE subjects are taught over 4 periods per week, except English Language and Literature, which are over 6 periods per week and Science which is taught over 10 periods. Students who take 9 GCSEs will have time for supervised private study during the week.

Which GCSE subjects may I choose from?

You will choose up to three GCSEs from the subjects in the table below, or two if you have chosen an extra language.

360° Me ePortfolio

360° Me ePortfolios are personal websites built by students to provide an illustration of your life, your educational and other achievements as well as your personal ambitions. At the heart of the ePortfolio is a belief that harnessing the power of technology will have the added benefit of encouraging you to think critically about your wider online life. In effect, by actively managing your digital footprint in this way, you are better placed to avoid some of the negative issues associated with social media.

The aim of the portfolio is for you to illuminate your life for the benefit of people you want to influence and persuade in the professional and academic domains, demonstrating your educational and other achievements as well as your personal ambitions.

The websites are private and only available within the GDST network initially, to form tutors and guidance staff, as well as anyone else at school you choose to show it to. You will refine your ePortfolios over the years so that they become a living résumé for future employers or universities, and give a real insight into your potential and track record. Initially, you create three sections of your site:

Home Page: an instantly impactful page which should visually represent you

360° Me Page: a brief biographical summary

Index Page: a page with links to your academic and other achievements which will grow over time

Enrichment

Balance is the Key to Life!

Students studying for their GCSEs work conscientiously at their chosen subjects, but there's a great range of enriching extracurricular activities, trips and visits to take advantage of outside the classroom. It's all about creating a sense of balance and building a portfolio that reflects who you are.

Enrichment opportunities are offered across the curriculum. These may include visits to Oxford University for a Classics study day, STEM trips to the Space Centre and Bletchley Park, Maths lectures in London, a Theology and Philosophy day in Cambridge, trips to the National Theatre for Drama students, the Geography field trip to Somerset and Nettlecombe Park and Art Trips to the British Museum, Tate Modern and Natural History Museum, as well as visits to the BBC Good Food Show and Clothes Show in Birmingham. Residential trips abroad are also an option, so you could join the Art and Classics trip to Rome, the History and German trip to Berlin, or take part in the German or French/Spanish home stay visits. Clubs and societies thrive in all their forms across the school: you can join the DASH debate teams as part of the interhouse competition, become a Language Leader or join a range of clubs to develop multiple transferable skills and consolidate learning in various disciplines.

All of our GCSE students are encouraged to develop their own skills, talents and interests. From here you might decide to join the National Citizen Service, organise some work experience in the summer, or help to organise your year and House charity event.

Sports clubs abound, and you might join a sports team like hockey or netball, or work out regularly at the school gym. You could even compete in the GDST Rallies, join the Senior Ski trip or be chosen for one of the Sports Tours. Opportunities in Music and Drama also abound, and you could be part of the Senior Choir, Orchestra, Flute Choir, join the Senior Theatre Company and be part of the Senior Play or take a lead role in House plays. Alternatively, you might volunteer to lead your House as a House Captain, volunteer as a Junior School Reading Mentor, or get involved with mentoring younger students in the Junior School to help with their transition as they join the Senior School. You could even volunteer to help organise and run the annual Christmas Variety Show for our local care home. You could, of course, also participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, starting with the Bronze Award before joining the Silver and perhaps even the Gold challenges as you progress through the Award. There are myriad opportunities scattered in your path from which you can choose.

Our Aim

Northampton High School aims to offer a vibrant and innovative learning environment that goes beyond excellent academic teaching and learning. The Enrichment Programme is an important part of ensuring we reach this aim and appears within the formally taught curriculum for students in Years 10-12. The programme complements other non-examined courses we run in the school, specifically Games, but also such courses as the Humanities Transferable Skills programme in Years 7 and 8 and the Global Outlook course offered in Year 9. Here are just a few of the exciting opportunities we currently offer:

National Citizen Service (NCS) is a UK-wide programme available, via application, to all 15-17 year olds. NCS comprises various stages and lasts for 3-4 weeks during your summer break. During NCS you will undertake adventurous activities, learn new skills and take part in social action projects alongside likeminded students from across the country. It is a great way to get out of your comfort zone and make new friends. Visit: <https://wearencs.com/> for more information.

You have the chance to be a **Reading Mentor**. During spring term of Year 10, you are given your first opportunity to mentor younger pupils, usually in Year 6, by helping them to practise their reading. Doing this will build your confidence as well as that of your partner pupil.

With the **Language Leaders Award**, you will have the opportunity to join the Language Leaders programme during Year 10 if you have a particular interest in French, German, Latin or Spanish. You will be able to help run events for other students, organise competitions and support the language learning of younger pupils. At the end of the programme you will gain your Routes into Languages Language Leader Award. Students will also have the opportunity to be involved in projects with our partner schools across Europe.

Big Bear, Little Bear gives a fantastic opportunity to be a mentor to a pupil in Year 6 as part of the Big Bear, Little Bear scheme during Year 11. Entry to this scheme is via an application and as part of the process you receive training and support before being partnered with a younger student. The aim of the scheme is to help prepare younger students for life in Senior School and give them information and advice. In return you will develop mentoring and leadership skills.

Most pupils undertake the **Duke of Edinburgh's Award** Scheme's Bronze Award during Year 10 and then smaller numbers proceed to Silver and Gold after completion. You will find yourself helping in the community, building mental and physical fitness and developing new skills, as well as going on an expedition.

Sport

In both years of the GCSE course, you will take part in a Games lesson. This is designed to help you relax and enjoy the company of your friends, while improving your fitness and developing your sports skills. In Year 10 you will participate in various sporting activities or have the option to focus predominantly on hockey, netball and/or cricket (term dependent), if you would prefer. Hockey, netball and cricket team players will use this time as squad training.

Our Games curriculum includes activities such as fitness, badminton, football and squash. In the summer term, students can also take part in tennis, cricket, rounders and athletics. In Year 11, you will choose an activity to participate in for half a term at a time.

Guidance

Our **Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education Programme** is designed to develop your resilience, empathy, life skills and much more. The sessions will be predominantly delivered to you in your tutor groups by a dedicated team of PSHE teachers. In addition to this team, the School Nurse will deliver sessions on sexual health and a range of outside speakers will deliver bespoke sessions. The PSHE Programme ensures you all receive appropriate support and key knowledge that is targeted to your specific age group. We explore Mindfulness, Relaxation and Positive Mindset in addition to citizenship topics and age-appropriate health topics.

You will have already narrowed your subjects slightly for GCSE but will also be looking ahead to A Level options. As soon as you start your GCSEs we begin to look ahead to the next stage of transition, including helping you to develop employability skills. with our **Inspiring Futures Programme**. This includes CV writing, positive and professional online profiles, interview techniques and application writing. This is consolidated during Enterprise Week towards the end of the summer term. For Year 10, this includes a day spent on careers, including a networking event with recent School alumnae. There is also time spent on ePortfolios during this week. Guest speakers and a range of workshops are

The options change, but examples include fitness, hockey, volleyball, netball, dodgeball, cricket, tennis, yoga, dance, rounders, and squash.

Outside of lessons there are a huge number of extracurricular sports activities. These run at lunchtime and after school. The offer of sports is varied, and students are encouraged to take part in numerous activities, so they develop a range of skills and fitness. Clubs that run include rackets, swimming, hockey, netball, football, and gymnastics and fitness. Alongside our clubs we run an extensive fixtures calendar, fielding teams in a wide variety of sports. We also have an extremely successful Equestrian Team and any student with their own horse can compete with us against other schools. Additionally, as part of the GDST, we compete in GDST Rallies.

provided for you across the two years to investigate individual career paths and issues surrounding employment, in greater detail. These vary on an annual basis but we ensure that the key elements are covered for each student. Speed networking forms another opportunity to explore different possibilities. Your GCSE courses will be enhanced by an extensive programme of trips and visits.

On Track is our individual mentoring programme for Year 10 and 11 students and it helps to ensure that you all get the best possible support to achieve your potential at GCSE and beyond. On Track is not exclusively academic in nature and takes a holistic approach, including the input of pastoral leaders, such as your Head of Year. This is because we are aware that there may be personal or family concerns that could impact your academic work. Students with specific learning requirements or difficulties are naturally involved in the programme too, their progress being monitored by the Learning Enhancement Coordinator, Mrs Beezley. The types of activities within the programme range from individual subject sessions in academic areas, one-to-one mentoring, through to year group sessions on study and exam skills. Mentoring is based on a one-to-one tailored approach with an experienced teacher, who will use a coaching system to help build a plan for improvement over a set time.



GCSE Subjects

Art, Craft & Design

Art at GCSE requires a natural curiosity for the world around you and an ability to formulate and carry out in-depth research on selected themes. You will investigate and experiment with a variety of techniques, both detailed and expressive. You will have an opportunity to explore a wide range of materials and improve skills in areas such as painting, drawing, mixed media, printmaking, sculpture, 3D design, textiles and digital media.

Coursework Component One (60%)

Pupils are expected to produce an extensive portfolio of coursework.

Externally Set Component Two (40%)

(released in January + 10 hours controlled assessment). Students will respond to a set topic or theme. There is an extensive preparatory period in which to carry out research, develop ideas and experiment with media. The final personal response is completed in two days at the end of this time.

Examination Board: Edexcel 1AD0.



Computer Science

In GCSE Computer Science you will learn to code in either C#, C+ or Python, developing your skills so you are ready for a project at the start of Year 11. You will learn about the hardware and software that make computer systems work, as well as investigating networks and cyber security. The thinking skills you develop will benefit you in all areas of your studies.

Unit 1: Computer systems (40%)

Written exam paper (1 hour and 30 minutes).

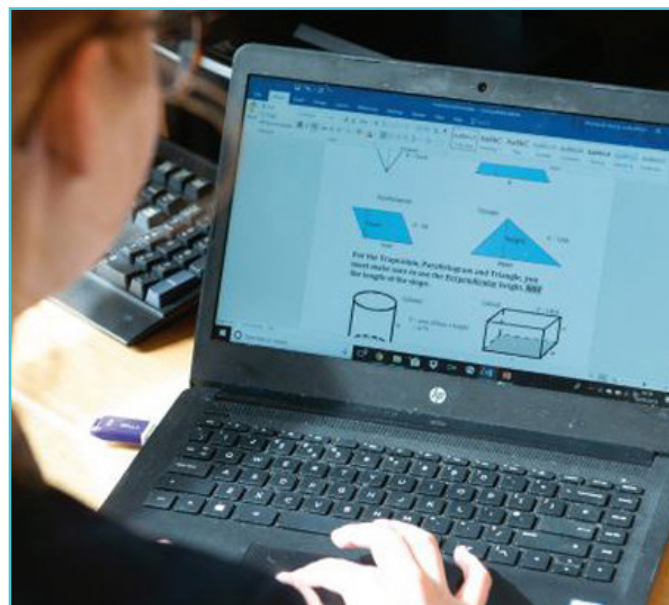
Unit 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (40%)

Written exam paper (1 hour and 30 minutes).

Unit 3: Programming project (20%)

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA).

Examination Board: OCR J276.



Drama

In GCSE Drama you will use your creativity and collaborative skills to develop a devised piece from a stimulus, which you will then perform. You will also analyse and evaluate the devising and performance processes in a portfolio. You will perform in two key extracts from a performance text which is externally assessed by a visiting examiner. There is also a practical exploration and study of one complete performance text with a live theatre evaluation.

Component 1: Devising (40%)

Coursework internally assessed and externally moderated, comprising of a practical and a portfolio.

Component 2: Performance from Text (20%)

Practical Coursework externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40%)

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes.

Examination Board: Edexcel 1DRO.



English Language & Literature

In English lessons, you will develop your ability to read and respond to texts from different eras and in different forms, from Shakespeare to modern poetry, from newspaper reports to famous speeches. Personal expression is developed through creative writing, oral presentations and discussion.

Language Component 1: Non-fiction texts and transactional writing (examination, 60%).

Language Component 2: Poetry and prose texts and imaginative writing (coursework, 40%).

Examination Board (Language): Edexcel 4EA1.

Literature Component 1: Poetry and modern prose (examination, 60%).

Literature Component 2: Modern drama and literacy heritage texts (coursework, 40%).

Examination Board (Literature): Edexcel 4ET1.



Fashion & Textiles

GCSE Textile Design is your chance to design products for woven, knitted, stitched, printed or decorative textiles. Areas of study include fashion design and illustration, costume design, constructed textiles, printed and dyed textiles and digital textiles. Our first project is entitled 'Fabulous Florals' and is designed to explore a range of creative textiles techniques alongside studying the work of some contemporary designers. You will create a selection of portfolio pages which showcase a range of creative textiles and design ideas inspired by the theme. There are two components, which are assessed in school and moderated by the exam board.

Component 1: A portfolio of work to include a sustained project, the theme and direction of which is chosen by the candidate (Weighting to 60% of total GCSE marks).

Component 2: An externally set assignment from AQA, chosen from a set of seven starting points.



Candidates will carry out approximately 15 weeks of preparatory work followed by 10 hours of supervised unaided work to realise a final outcome (Weighting to 40% of total GCSE marks).

Examination Board: AQA Textile Design 4204.

Food Preparation & Nutrition

In GCSE Food you will expand your theoretical knowledge by studying nutrition, processes, dietary requirements and food provenance, as some examples. You will build on the practical skills you already have and learn new ones, including making pasta, mozzarella, and rough puff pastry, and filleting fish. Through cooking you will also develop your presentation skills by applying techniques to improve the appearance of food. Food science is an important element of the course; you will show understanding of the functional and chemical properties of ingredients through theory and investigation. An annual trip to Borough Market is a fantastic opportunity to explore a bustling food market and take part in a baking class at Bread Ahead bakery.

Food Preparation and Nutrition:
50% of GCSE 1hr 30 minute written paper.

Food Investigation Task:
15% of GCSE non-examined assessment (NEA).

Food Preparation Task:
35% of GCSE non-examined assessment (NEA).

Examination Board: OCR J309.



Geography

You will study Human and Physical Geography as part of the GCSE course. Specific human topics include examining different levels of global development, how this affects people's standards of living and how trade and investment by large companies can affect development. Physical topics involve developing an understanding of how the world changes through natural processes, how these changes affect our lives and how we can, in turn, impact the planet. In particular, we study coastal processes to examine the impacts of flooding and erosion on people as well as weather hazards, such as the potential impacts of tropical storms.

It is a subject that rewards those who have the ability to reason and think. In content it covers many areas that are directly applicable to 'real life', hence maintaining and broadening your interest in the world around you. It is a modern GCSE course that studies contemporary geographical issues that affect the world today, such as immigration and climate change.



Unit 1: The Physical Environment (37.5%).

Unit 2: The Human Environment (37.5%).

Unit 3: Geographical Investigations (including fieldwork) (25%).

Examination Board: Edexcel 1GAO.

History

A genuine interest in History and reading is essential. The GCSE course will introduce you to some of the key events and personalities that have shaped important developments in British, European and World History. In addition, you will develop skills such as the ability to construct arguments and your written skills will be enhanced in terms of learning to write more concisely and fluently. This makes it highly suited to a wide range of career paths including Law and Journalism. Students are encouraged to debate the issues raised, research around the subjects taught and prepare presentations to enhance learning. Communication skills are vital for success in the world today and the study of History provides a route to acquiring them. Extra sessions and lectures will be available and in recent years, students have been offered trips to the Somme (Warfare Through Time) and Berlin (Cold War). Units 1, 2 & 3 are assessed by three written exams. There is no coursework.

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment. Warfare and British Society 1250 to the present and London and the Second World War 1939-1945.

Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes (30% of the qualification).



Paper 2: Period study and British depth study. Superpower relations in the Cold War 1941–1991 and a study of Elizabethan England from 1558-1588.

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes (40% of the qualification).

Paper 3: Modern depth study. Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–1941.

Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes (30% of the qualification).

Examination Board: Edexcel 1H10.

Latin

In the GCSE Latin course, you will study language and literature, as well as exploring Roman civilisation. In the language component, you develop your skills in translation, comprehension, analysing grammar and prose composition. The literature element enables you to read extracts from a range of Roman authors; you explore ancient ideas in the original language and develop your essay-writing skills, including justifying your views and making comparisons. Through the texts, you learn about Roman society, as well as considering the impact of literature on its intended audience. In the Roman Civilisation component, you gain a deeper understanding of aspects of ancient culture, through studying a range of sources, both literary (in English) and visual.

Component 1 - Latin Language (50%): translations and comprehensions based on a Latin story. You can also choose between answering grammar questions on a brief passage or writing three very short Latin sentences.

Component 2 - Latin Literature and Sources (30%): extracts of Latin literature, both prose and verse, on a theme, together with ancient archaeological source materials on the same theme. The examination is open-book assessment, with a mixture of comprehension, stylistic analysis and mini-essay questions.



Component 3 - Roman Civilisation (20%): explore a Roman cultural topic in depth through a range of ancient evidence, including literary sources (all studied in English) and visual material. The examination comprises short factual questions, analysis and mini essays.

Examination Board: EDUQAS C990PB

Mathematics

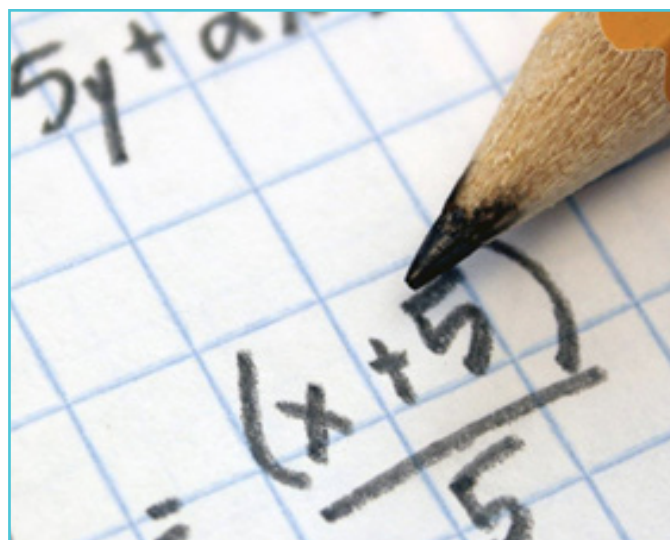
As a core subject, we see great Maths skills as being fundamental to your academic profile. We support, challenge and stretch all students enabling you to become confident mathematicians with a love of the subject. We also allow you the opportunity to study Further Mathematics GCSE if you show considerable potential in the subject.

Paper 1: carries 50% of the total mark.

Paper 2: carries 50% of the total mark.

Each examination paper lasts for 2 hours. At both Higher and Foundation tiers, candidates will be expected to be able to use and apply Mathematics both with and without calculators.

Examination Board: Edexcel IGCSE 4MA1.



Modern Foreign Languages

Languages are an important asset in today's world and we pride ourselves on offering three popular Modern Foreign Languages: AQA GCSE in French and Spanish and the Cambridge IGCSE in German. You have the opportunity to study two languages at GCSE if you would like and, if you speak another language at home, we will endeavour to support you in further study of this language. As well as developing excellent language skills, our Key Stage 4 courses give you a fascinating insight into different cultures as well as important life skills for a global employment market.

FRENCH, GERMAN & SPANISH

Examination Board: AQA

The GCSE examination has four assessment components, which correspond to the four skills involved in language learning:

Exam structure:

Listening: 25%.
Reading: 25%.
Speaking: 25%.
Writing: 25%.

Each component will be examined at the end of the course. Students will study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based. Theme 1: Identity and culture; theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest; theme 3: Current and future study and employment.



Music

Music GCSE is an opportunity for you to develop your skills in performing, composing, analysing and appraising music. The course is enjoyable and both challenges and stimulates your musical abilities. You will be supported to perform regularly at school and beyond: individually, in small group settings and in the Orchestra, if possible.

There are three components:

Listening: 40% Listening-based written paper set by the board.

Performing: 30% Supervised Controlled Assessment.

Composing: 30% Supervised Controlled Assessment.

We welcome students who have reached around Grade 3 standard in Year 9, as this will mean they are ready for starting the performing element of the course.



During the course we expect you to develop your performing skills to approximately Grade 5 standard by the beginning of Year 11. Students should continue with individual instrumental or singing lessons, in order to fulfil the performing requirements of the course. To develop the necessary ensemble skills, participation in ensemble and group sessions is also necessary.

Examination Board: Edexcel 1MU0.

Physical Education

The GCSE in Physical Education is the opportunity for you to develop your practical skills alongside your theoretical knowledge of human anatomy, biomechanics, sociocultural influences, and sports psychology. We recommend you regularly participate in a range of sports outside of the curriculum, for school or club to compliment the practical lessons. Overall, the PE GCSE is a varied and interesting course with far reaching applications beyond GCSE.

Practical: 40% - assessment in three sports and a written Analysis and Evaluation of Performance.

Examinations: 60% broken down as:

Paper 1: 30%, 1 hour and 15 minutes - The Human Body and Movement in Physical Education.

Paper 2: 30%, 1 hour and 15 minutes - Sociocultural Influences and Wellbeing in Physical Activity and Sport.

Examination Board: AQA 8582.



Religious Studies

In Religious Studies GCSE, you will study Hinduism and Christianity as well as a range of philosophical and ethical themes that link these important world religions. Our aim is always to educate, and not to indoctrinate. We are proud to welcome students from a wide variety of religious backgrounds as well as those who are Atheist, Humanist or may have no clearly formulated beliefs. We respect the right of all students to maintain and develop their own beliefs and values as we value the diversity of faiths and philosophies of our students striving to nurture an ethos of dialogue, understanding and critical thinking.

Component One (Year 10): The Study of Religions (50% of GCSE) Hinduism and Christianity.

Component Two (Year 11): Thematic Studies (50% of GCSE) - Four of the following six topics will be studied; (A) Relationships and Families, (B) Religion and Life, (C) The existence of God and Revelation, (D) Religion, Peace and Conflict, (E) Religion, Crime and Punishment, (F) Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice.

Examination Board: AQA 8062LA.



Sciences: Biology, Chemistry & Physics

Leading to three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, or GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy 8464), leading to two GCSEs across the three Sciences. As core subjects in our curriculum, you will find the Sciences relevant, challenging and exciting. You may choose to study the Sciences as separate GCSEs or as a Dual Science award called Trilogy. Whether you choose separate Sciences or the Dual Science award you will always be taught in separate Sciences by specialist teachers.

In separate Sciences, students will sit 6 written papers, 2 for each subject, each of which will be 1 hour 45 minutes long, consisting of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. In the Trilogy course, there are 6 papers: 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

Examination Board: AQA 8461 Biology, 8462 Chemistry, 8463 Physics, 8464 Trilogy.



Student Case Studies



My name is Khushi and I am in Year 10, having started my GCSE courses at the start of this year. For my optional subjects I decided to take French, PE, History and opted for Triple Science along side the core subjects of Maths and English.

I enjoy these subjects because the lessons are fun and engaging and the teachers are really helpful and supportive. As for my extracurricular activities in school I am part of the U15's hockey team and I also volunteer in the Big sister, Little sister programme. Opportunities like this allow me to develop my transferable skills further than simply developing them in lessons.

Outside of school I play hockey for a club and for the County, whilst also having plenty of opportunities to develop my sport in school through a variety of matches and weekly practices. This supports the development of my hockey outside school and complements my interests really nicely. I also dance, specifically ballet, and have just finished my grade 5 exam.



My name is Grace and I am in Year 10.

For my GCSEs I decided to take History, Food, French as well as Maths, English Language & Literature and Triple Science. I enjoy these subjects as my

teachers are passionate about their subject and are able to create a positive environment, making the subjects more enjoyable.

As for my extracurricular activities in school I am part of the U15's hockey team and cross country team. Outside of school I run at county level and play hockey for county and club.



My name is Hattie and I'm in Year 11 studying History, PE, Theology and Philosophy, French and Triple Science. I'm really glad that I chose these subjects in Year 9 as I really enjoy them all. I appreciate that it feels very overwhelming when you are faced with a multitude of

interesting subjects that you have to narrow down but I ended up picking subjects that I enjoyed and that I was good at.

I also do a lot of extracurricular sport as I play hockey and tennis to a regional level. The school has supported me throughout my GCSEs incredibly well and has helped me to balance my sporting life as well as my academics. I've felt very supported in Year 11 with my GCSEs as the school has put on revision clinics at lunchtimes for most subjects. I currently attend a French, History and Theology and Philosophy club to help consolidate my learning.

For me, the most impressive thing about doing your GCSEs at the High School is the fact that there are no option blocks when selecting your subjects meaning you can choose any of the subjects on offer to you. It's also reassuring to know that if you decide to change your mind with your options, you can still change your subject choices in the first term of Year 10 if the subject no longer appeals to you.

Overall, I would say that even though choosing your options may feel overwhelming, nothing is permanent and the support that I gained from the school has really helped me through my GCSE process.



Northampton High School

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