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Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to guide students through the options process to make informed choices for their GCSEs.

Please take the time to read all the material carefully before you make your choices. If you have any questions about our GCSE Options process, please speak with your form tutor, your Head of House or email your question to academic@judd.kent.sch.uk.

Our broad and balanced curriculum

At The Judd School, we believe it is important for students to retain a broad range of subjects through to GCSE. To achieve this ambition, our curriculum consists of a mix of core and options subjects. The core curriculum – English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Religious Studies, 'Learn, Grow, Belong', Core PE and Games – is studied by all students. Students then enhance their curriculum by selecting options subjects; they study four options subjects which must include at least one from each subject group: Languages, Humanities and Creative Subjects

In deciding to allow students a choice of what they will study for GCSE in Year 9, we understand that this narrows their range of subjects a year earlier than in many schools. We are able to bring forward this decision because students have studied almost all the full entitlement of the National Curriculum in Years 7 and 8, with remaining aspects covered through our 'Learn, Grow, Belong' curriculum.

By requiring students to retain a broad curriculum through to GCSE, we believe this creates the best possible opportunity for students to become accomplished learners with a greater range of skills and knowledge, specifically with regard to the learning characteristics from our 'Student Vision' – being empathetic, reflective, inquisitive, courageous, reasoning and collaborative.

Our curriculum facilitates the government expectations around the English Baccalaureate, or EBacc. The DfE describe the EBacc as "a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers". The government's stated intention is that 75% of pupils will study the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2022, and 90% by 2025.¹

We support the government's ambition for students to have access to an academic curriculum that opens doors to the best universities and other routes through life. However, we also feel that the EBacc has had two, perhaps unintended, consequences; namely the marginalisation of the creative arts and the failure to recognise Religious Studies as a Humanity and as a crucial aspect of students' education.

Consequently, we have structured our curriculum offer to ensure that both RS and a range of creative subjects are studied at Judd.

All students study RS as a part of the Full Curriculum and are required to study one subject from the pool of creative subjects through to GCSE. We define our 'creative subjects' quite broadly. The pool includes Art and Design, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Music, Physical Education and Drama. We believe these subjects do fit together well; as a set they develop students' ability to think and act creatively, solve problems, organise themselves, communicate and use their imagination or original ideas to create, assess and evaluate.

We strongly believe that the 'Full Curriculum' is the right curriculum offer and its demands are within the capacity of the majority of Judd students. However, some students do benefit from studying a more bespoke curriculum; we call this alternative pathway the Focused Curriculum.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc/english-baccalaureate-ebacc>

The Focused Curriculum

We recognise that up to 15-20% of students would benefit from studying fewer GCSEs, with support in the released time for the core subjects, support in learning mastery and time to focus on independent study.

In our Focused Curriculum, students study 10 subjects (or in some cases fewer) with a reduced core and greater freedom of choice for their options subjects, in an effort to maximise their chances of success at GCSE and their route through to Sixth Form.

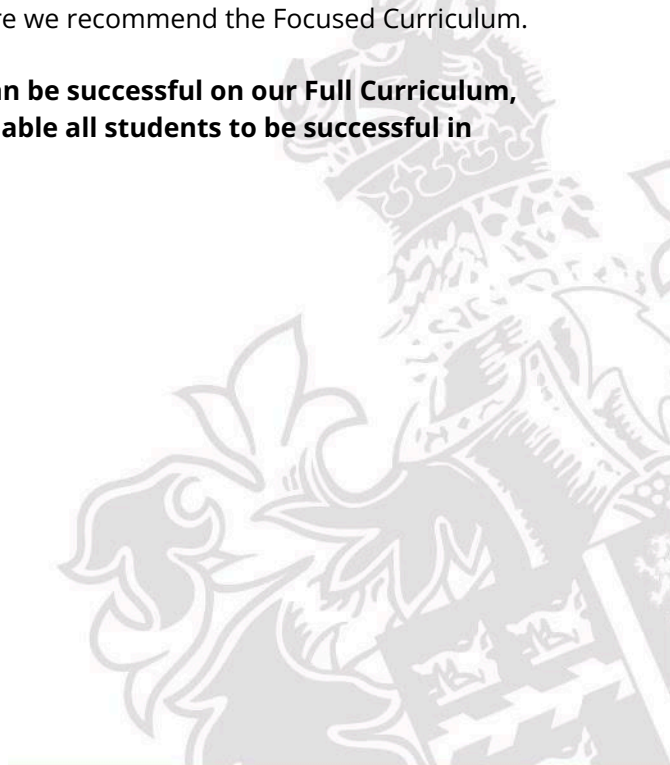
For students in our Focused Curriculum, RS moves from the core subjects to the options groups – in the Humanities block. Students, therefore, still make four choices, but may select subjects from at least two of the three groups – Humanities, Languages and Creative subjects – removing the requirement to study all three.

In the time this frees up, students will join our Learning Development lessons, where those 5 periods will be supervised by a teacher to support them with their study. The size of the study groups affords students more 1:1 staff attention and the opportunity to discuss topics less formally with their teachers and peers.

Students who choose not to study RS as a humanity will study non-examined core RS as part of the Learning Development programme. In this way, all our students, regardless of curriculum pathway, study some form of RS, because we consider it an important aspect of their education as they develop an empathetic understanding of the world around us to become caring and responsible citizens.

We have observed over recent years that some students who would benefit from this greater focus on fewer subjects realise too late and have not started on 10 subjects, often because it had restricted their choices. This is why we have enabled greater freedom, not less, in an effort to ensure students make the right choice for them. We will be contacting parents where we recommend the Focused Curriculum.

The Focused Curriculum is not for students we believe can be successful on our Full Curriculum, in order to reduce workload or narrow choices; it is to enable all students to be successful in their KS4 years.



Summary of Subjects and Choices for study in KS4 (Years 9 – 11)

Subject Group	Full Curriculum	Focused Curriculum
Core Subjects	English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Religious Studies	English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics
Humanities	Geography and History	Geography, History and Religious Studies
Languages	French, German, Latin and Classical Languages	
Creative Subjects	Art, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Drama, Music, Physical Education	
Required Choice	1 Humanity 1 Language 1 Creative Subject 1 Free choice 1 reserve choice	Four subjects from at least two Subject Groups Plus one subject as reserve
Total subjects	11	10

Compulsory Non-Examined Subjects:

PE, Games, 'Learn, Grow, Belong'

Students are also asked to select a **reserve choice**, should their preferred selection prove impossible. In this unlikely event, you would be notified when this becomes apparent, later in the year, as the timetabling process begins.

Non-examination assessment (NEAs)

GCSEs can be assessed in two ways: through non-examination assessment and through examinations. Non-examination assessments have been drastically reduced in the new GCSEs. At Judd, some subjects are assessed by both coursework and examination, but most are assessed by examination only.

However, non-examination assessment provides two essential study skills for students: individual study and time management. If the students use their class and homework time wisely, then they will encounter few difficulties in meeting deadlines and they will benefit immensely from the more independent learning style that will be a key feature of A Level courses.

Non-examination assessment should not be the most important factor that influences your option subjects.

Types of GCSE

'New' GCSEs with 9-1 grading

You may already be aware that new GCSEs have been introduced in all subjects offered at Judd. Ofqual have reformed the content of GCSEs to make them "more challenging so pupils are better prepared for further academic or vocational study, or for work".

These GCSEs will be graded on a 9-point scale where 9 is the top grade. There is no direct comparison between individual grades on the new and old A*-G scale, however:

- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as before achieved a grade C and above.
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as before achieved an A and above.
- For each exam, the top 20 per cent of those who get grade 7 or above will get a grade 9, this acknowledges the very highest performers in each subject.

IGCSEs and Level 2 Certificates

These alternatives to the old-style GCSEs have been studied in a number of subjects in recent years. They were very popular in selective and independent schools as they offered an academic curriculum, with rigorous assessment strategies, appropriate to our students.

With the advent of reformed GCSEs, however, we now only follow the iGCSE in History (Modern History option). This qualification will also be one with 9-1 grading that satisfies Ofqual accreditation. It should be noted that this qualification does not qualify for the EBacc, but is chosen because the school believes it is a more suitable qualification for Judd students, better preparing students for the study of History at A Level. This is only of consequence to the performance tables measure for the school, on which we place lesser importance than the value of the curriculum to our students.



Core Subjects

English (Language and Literature)

All students will study and sit two separate English GCSE qualifications. There will be 8 lessons over the fortnight timetable in Years 10 and 11, following 6 in Year 9.

English Language (8700): Students sit two exams in Year 11: Paper 1 (1hr45) and Paper 2 (1hr45). Paper 1 explores fiction texts and creative writing whereas Paper 2 focuses on two non fiction texts which the students will compare; Part B of Language Paper 2 centres on non fiction, transactional writing.

There is additionally a non-examination assessment of Speaking and Listening (8700/C), which does not contribute to the overall score for either subject but is separately endorsed (Pass, Merit or Distinction).

English Literature (8702): Students sit two exams in Year 11: Paper 1 Shakespeare and 19th century novel (1hr45) and Paper 2 Modern Text, Poetry Anthology, Unseen Poetry (2hr15).

There is no coursework for this subject and both exams are closed text.

Texts currently being studied and chosen depending on the class teacher. <i>Subject to changes.</i>			
Shakespeare (Paper 1)	19th Century Novel (Paper 1)	Modern Text (Paper 2)	Anthology Poetry (Paper 2)
<i>Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare	<i>The Sign of Four</i> by Arthur Conan Doyle or <i>The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> by Robert L Stevenson	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding or <i>An Inspector Calls</i> by JB Priestley	Power and Conflict Cluster AQA

Students will receive an anthology of poetry from the school, for Paper 2 of English Literature, but are expected to provide the texts (novel/drama) themselves.

Head of English: Miss L Knapp

Mathematics

All students will be prepared for the [Edexcel GCSE](#) (1MA1) which was introduced in 2015. The content of the course provides a strong mathematical basis for future study, and the specification also puts an increased emphasis on students' reasoning and problem-solving skills. The teaching groups are set according to a student's pace of comprehension and students in the accelerated sets will study for an extra qualification – either the FSMQ Additional Maths or the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths.

The skills developed in GCSE Maths are essential for a student tackling A Level Maths or indeed A Level Further Maths. Whilst knowledge of an additional qualification will enable students to undertake an accelerated course, there is no requirement for students to take anything above GCSE to study Further Maths at A Level. All groups will benefit from a thorough preparation of the GCSE content, and setting is under constant review throughout Year 9 to ensure that every student is studying at a comfortable yet challenging pace.

Head of Mathematics: Dr J Wainwright

Science

Students in year 9 start studying for their GCSE in [Biology](#) (8461), [Chemistry](#) (8462) and [Physics](#) (8463). We follow the AQA GCSE course for separate sciences.

For each science, students will sit two papers at the end of year 11. Each paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes long and contributes equally to the overall grade. The questions are a combination of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open responses. Our students will sit the Higher Tier papers.

Head of Biology: Dr M Courel; Head of Chemistry: Mr J Shaghaghi; Head of Physics: Mr D Lesquerre

Religious Studies

Board: [AQA \(Specification A\)](#) (8062)

Religious Studies is a compulsory subject in the 'Full Curriculum' through to full course GCSE. The GCSE assessment is composed of two papers, each of which constitute 50% of the final grade.

Modern and engaging – Gain a deeper understanding of two religions and explore philosophy and ethical studies in the modern world. It is very difficult to understand world politics — whether it be the US presidential elections or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — without an understanding of religion.

Designed to inspire – The specification includes exciting content that explores relationships and families, peace and conflict, belief in God and non-religious belief. From ethical debates on current issues to questions of the soul and a possible afterlife, Religious Studies taps into our natural curiosity and enables pupils to think for themselves with respect to the big questions.

Skills for today's world – Religious Studies can open up the possibility of in-depth debate, which leads to critical evaluation and analysis. Increasingly, the skills and content taught through Religious Studies are required in fields as diverse as journalism, medicine, law, social work and the worlds of business and politics. Religious Studies is an academic subject which has a high status in the UK. Aside from the world of work, we are living in an increasingly pluralistic society; studying two religions helps people to appreciate different cultures and develop empathy and respectful disagreement.

Straightforward assessment – It has a simple, clear assessment structure that consists of two written examinations and no coursework.

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

Focusing on Islam and Christianity, students will learn about the origins of religion and its place in the modern world, as well as the impact of religious belief on individuals and communities. They will study the key beliefs and teachings of each faith, study important texts and scriptures and understand how these ideas are put into practice in the modern world, through religious practices, moral codes and celebration of festivals. They will critically evaluate religious belief and practice and analyse the diversity within and between religions.

Component 2: Thematic studies

Students will also study a range of ethical and philosophical issues, with a focus on Christian, Muslim and non-religious views. They will learn to evaluate and critically examine various perspectives, find common ground and areas of tension between them, develop and express their own view, and

understand the implications of these ideas for modern society. The themes are:

- The existence of God and revelation: Philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God; the nature of the divine and revelation
- Relationships and families: Sex, marriage and divorce; families and gender equality
- Religion, peace and conflict: Religion, violence, terrorism and war; religion and belief in 21st century conflict
- Religion, Crime and Punishment: Justice, attitudes to the law and the authority of the state; theories of punishment; capital punishment.
- Religion and Life: Abortion, euthanasia, pollution, animal testing
- Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice: Equality, prejudice and discrimination.

Studying Religious Studies gives students the unique opportunity to develop their philosophical enquiry. Students often learn through collaborative projects, debates and ICT investigations, and have time to develop a deep and nuanced understanding of the topics.

Head of Religious Studies: Miss R Jenkins



Compulsory Non-Examined Subjects

Personal, Social and Health Education programme

Throughout years 9, 10 and 11, students will now follow a PSHE programme delivered through our new **'Learn, Grow, Belong'** curriculum as part of their regular timetable. Students will study various elements of PSHE and Citizenship, covering eight main areas:

- Careers
- Citizenship
- Equality and Diversity
- First Aid
- Health and Wellbeing
- Financial Education
- Online Safety
- Relationships and Sex Education

In addition, the 'Learn, Grow, Belong' curriculum will develop students learning ability, their oracy, and provide them with the skills they need to be successful.

Careers Advice & Work Experience

Careers Education Information and Guidance (CEIAG) is an integral part of the Year 9, 10 and 11 PSHE programme. This is delivered through careers lessons in their 'Learn, Grow, Belong' curriculum, links made throughout the rest of their curriculum and through one-to-one or small group interviews with our Careers Advisers in year 11 and Sixth Form. Students also have access to the Unifrog careers information platform.

Up to date careers information is available on the Careers site on the Judd Dashboard. Parents may access this by using the following link: <https://sites.google.com/judd.kent.sch.uk/careers>.

Careers-related books, and guides relating to higher education, may also be found in the Careers section of the School Library. Students and parents can easily book a meeting with our Careers Advisers, Ms C Swindin and Mrs L Yue, using the link on the careers meeting section of the site at any time and can be contacted at careers@judd.kent.sch.uk.

Students are strongly encouraged to make the most of work experience opportunities, and many students complete these during the school holidays. The Careers department can assist students with finding suitable placements, and relevant opportunities are also posted on the Careers site. Currently, there are a number of excellent virtual opportunities available which are also shown on the Careers website. There is a particular focus on learning about career pathways for students in year 10 with the 'World of Work' event which runs over two days in the summer term. In year 12 students have a week's work experience during the summer term.

An annual Futures Fair, careers focussed Sixth Form and Year 11 assemblies, regular speakers, virtual mock interviews and a business enterprise day are on offer. To find out more about our commitment to careers & higher education as well the Careers Programme and Policy please follow this link on the Judd School website: <https://www.judd.online/careers>

Options to be chosen

Languages

Every student at Judd is required to take at least one Language at GCSE. Students may, of course, choose to take more than one, though study in year 10 is regrettably limited to a maximum of two.

French

Why Learn French? 🇫🇷

[French - A Language of opportunities](#) (Institut Français toolkit)



300 million people speak French around the world



It's spoken on **every continent!**



29 countries have French as an official language



It's the **2nd most learned foreign language** in the world



It's the **#1 language employers in the UK are looking for**

French is everywhere!

- It's the language of **cooking, fashion, art, music, theatre, and architecture.**
- It's also used in **international organisations** like the United Nations, EU, UNESCO, NATO, the Olympics, and the Red Cross.

Our goal:

We want you to enjoy learning French while building real-world skills. Through culture and communication, you'll develop the confidence to speak French in and outside the classroom—whether it's for your GCSE exams or a trip to a French-speaking country. You'll explore the language in fun and meaningful ways, helping you connect with the wider world and prepare for your future.

What topics will I learn about?

[Subject Content New GCSE AQA](#) (first exam in 2026)

Theme 1: People and lifestyle	Theme 2: Popular culture	Theme 3: Communication and the world around us
• Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others • Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle • Topic 3: Education and work	• Topic 1: Free-time activities • Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations • Topic 3: Celebrity culture	• Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest • Topic 2: Media and technology • Topic 3: The environment and where people live

What skills will I be assessed on?

[Specification New GCSE AQA](#) (first exam in 2026)

Listening 🎧	Speaking 🗣️	Reading 📖	Writing ✍️
• 25% • You'll listen to recordings and answer in English or by ticking boxes.	• 25% • You'll do a role play • You'll read a short text aloud in French followed by 3 questions	• 25% • You'll read texts and answer in English or by ticking boxes. • At the end, you'll translate 5 short	• 25% • You'll write in French – one short task (90 words) and one longer one (150 words).

There's also a short dictation where you write down what you hear in French.	You'll talk about a photo, then answer a few questions from your teacher	sentences from French to English.	At the end, you'll translate 5 short sentences from English to French.
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What other skills will I develop?

In addition to learning new vocabulary, we'll focus on some key skills to help you succeed:

- Grammar** 📖 – You'll understand how the language works and build strong sentence structures.
- Phonics** 🔊 – You'll improve your pronunciation and how you sound out French words.
- Culture** 🌍 – You'll explore French culture, from music and food to traditions and holidays.

Beyond that, you'll also work on important life skills like:

- Collaboration** 🤝 – Working together with classmates to solve problems and share ideas.
- Reflectiveness** 🗣️ – Thinking about your progress and how you can improve.

Will I get the opportunity to do an Exchange?

[French Department website - Trips](#)

In Year 10, we have an exciting **exchange trip to Bordeaux** for a week. Here's what happens:

- You'll stay with a **French family** and your **exchange partner**.
- You'll get to **practice your French** every day and experience French culture up close.
- There are **fun activities** like visiting the highest sand dune in Europe, going to a **winery**, trying an **Escape Room** and maybe even watching a **rugby game**!

Then, later in the year, we welcome the French students to **England** for a week, and you'll show them around! It's a great chance to learn, explore, and have fun while improving your French.

Who will teach me?

Mme. Figureau (HoD)	M. Villel��ger	Mrs. Wilkey
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They are all experienced French teachers that are passionate about the language and French speaking world.

What do students that chose French say about it? - Summer 2024

[French department website - What students think of us](#)

"I just want to say that I have absolutely loved French this year. (The teacher) has made it really good for me." (Year 9)

"I have progressed a lot thanks to (the teacher's) help and felt (the teacher) constantly provided me with support." (Year 9)

"The teacher creates a good environment, and the objectives and tasks are engaging." (Year 9)

Head of French - Mme L Figureau

German

Why choose this subject?

At Judd we are passionate about German. We believe that learning German is much more than just learning a language. Whether you are interested in history, music, literature, architecture, science, philosophy, psychology or business, Germany has it all. When you learn a foreign language you improve your memory and will obtain a range of skills which can improve the quality of both your work and private life. Germany has an incredibly strong economy and a wealth of international links. German can be a useful additional skill in any career, as it ranks among the top 10 most frequently spoken languages in the world and plays an important role in many countries, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe. Statistically, those who speak more than one language have a higher income. According to the British-German Association source, *CBI (the employers' organisation) surveys show German to be the language employers look for above all others.*

Link: [Why learn German?](#)

What and how will you be learning?

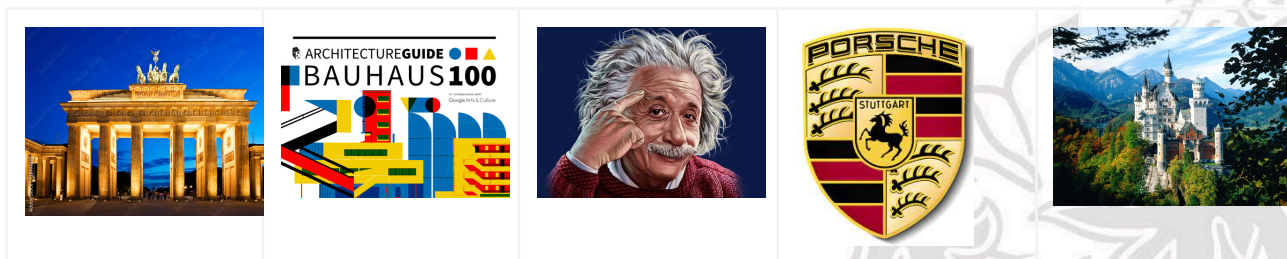
Students study all of the following three themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: People & Lifestyle	Theme 2 Popular Culture	Theme 3: Communication & The World Around Us
• Identity and relationships with others • Healthy living & lifestyles • Education & work	• Free-time activities • Customs & Festivals • Celebrity Culture	• Travel & tourism, including places of interest • Media & Technology • The environment & where people live

The German Department has a very interactive teaching style and encourages as much active participation in lessons as possible, in order to increase students' confidence in their own abilities. There is a considerable amount of work on comprehension of the spoken and written word and on oral practice, sometimes in pairs and groups, as the oral test includes general conversation, a role-play and a picture-based discussion.

Furthermore, a firm grammatical foundation will be established and expertise in writing the foreign language will also be expected, especially of those boys likely to continue language study. Cultural knowledge of the country is strongly encouraged by the Department through the watching of films in German and listening to authentic music as well as reading authentic German texts, to supplement the course where appropriate.

The candidate who successfully completes the GCSE course should be able to communicate in the foreign language in situations he is likely to encounter when visiting a German speaking country or when receiving a guest from that country.



How will the course be assessed?

German is following the AQA syllabus for GCSE and students will take four separate examinations on the language skills at the end of Year 11 – listening, speaking, reading and writing (25% each).



Listening: listening comprehension tasks (answer in English), dictation



Speaking: (three tasks) role-play, reading aloud, photocard discussion



Reading: (5 tasks) reading comprehension (answer in English), translation from German to English



Writing: (3 tasks) translation English to German (50 words), 90 -words writing task, 150-words writing task

How do you find out more?

Please talk to your German teacher. You can also find more information on the AQA website, specification code: AQA 8664.

Exchange visits

The long-standing German Exchange with the Adolf-Reichwein-Gymnasium (the 2024 Exchange would have been our 52nd!) takes place annually, providing an opportunity for Year 10 students to go to Heusenstamm, near Frankfurt am Main, in May/June and for the German students to visit England in June/July.

Head of German: Frau I Lambert



Latin

Why choose Latin?

First, let's dispel some myths!!

1. 'Latin is "just" another language.' Not really! Learning Latin is like stepping into a new world: It introduces you to myths, legends, philosophical thought, art, architecture, Roman emperors, history and politics.

2. 'Latin is a dead language.' Technically yes, but no, not really!! Latin is alive and relevant for us today! Latin was the language of the Romans, used all over the Roman Empire. Latin is not just the basis for languages such as French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Romanian, it has also had a huge influence on the English language and forms the basis of key words and technical jargon used in Maths, Science, Technology, Computer Science, Medicine, Politics and Philosophy. Roman historical sources and literary texts also teach us about all sorts of things that are still relevant to our lives today: philosophical ideas about justice, virtue, honour, truth, but also politics, history, the arts as well as the origins of science.

Latin is a rewarding subject because it is highly regarded for its academic rigour. It teaches you not just to think analytically, asking the what, how and why, but also how to write logically and analytically. Latin is also useful because it offers you a deep understanding and appreciation of the richness of Latin words, which are the root of many European languages and it teaches you about the power of language in general. Through debates and discussions in class you develop confidence in speaking and an aptitude for explaining, arguing and persuading. These skills are highly valued by future employers, and are not just useful for studying at Judd but also for life.

Results are excellent: in 2024 64% of pupils achieved 9-7 grades. There are usually one or two strong sets in Years 9, 10 and 11.

What and how will you be learning? By studying Latin, you will

- appreciate and deepen your understanding of Classical literature and history;
- develop linguistic skills, translating and analysing Latin texts, and to study the significance of their historical and literary contexts;
- enrich your experience of studying Latin through various extracurricular activities.

In **year 9**, you study both a Latin language and Roman culture component, offered through the *Suburani Course*, Books 1 & 2. You continue to develop your knowledge of Latin learnt in the previous two years, aiming for strong skill sets of translation, grammar and vocabulary knowledge. Most of the Latin grammar and vocabulary knowledge required for GCSE is covered during years 9 and 10. During the year we will make a start with the GCSE Latin Literature set texts, giving you access to the works of some of the greatest Roman authors, historians and politicians such as Livy, Cicero and Pliny and the poets Virgil and Horace. You will learn in depth about Roman life, politics, religion, and philosophy. During the Spring term you are offered the opportunity to go on a day excursion to the Roman baths of Aquae Sulis in Bath and learn about life in Roman Britain.

In **year 10**, you continue to develop your knowledge of the Latin language, working towards GCSE and continuing the study of Latin Literature. The Eduqas GCSE examination board has carefully selected a series of literature set texts to stimulate enjoyment and appreciation of the Latin language as well as generate an interest in various Roman themes explored by the Classical authors. All questions in the literature papers will be based on material that has been extensively studied in class in years 9-11. As

part of our extra-curricular activities you are offered the chance to go on the Classics trip to Italy, which includes three days in Rome, where we will visit famous sites such as the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Palatine Hill, Ostia, St. Peter's Basilica and San Sebastian catacombs, followed by four days in Campania, the region around the Bay of Naples, where we will visit Pompeii, Herculaneum, Mount Vesuvius and the island of Capri.

In **year 11**, you continue to consolidate and broaden your knowledge of Latin, preparing for the GCSE examinations. Careful study, exam practice and revision are all part of the course.

How will the course be assessed?

The Eduqas Latin GCSE specification consists of three components weighted as follows:

- Language (comprehension and translation): 50% (90 mins)
- Literature and Sources - Themes: 30% (75 mins)
- Literature - Narratives 20% (60 mins)

How do you find out more?

We hope you will be able to make an informed choice for all your GCSE subjects! If you have any questions about studying Latin for GCSE, do speak to your Latin teacher, Ms Hargreaves, Mrs Cooper or Mr Thornton.

Head of Classics: Ms V Hargreaves

"I love Latin. It is like a code game because you can substitute one word for another." -

Stephen Fry

"If I had to do it all over again, I'd be a schoolteacher – probably teach Roman history or theology." - **Bob Dylan**

"To study Latin is to encounter face to face the smartest, funniest, most beautiful minds that have ever lived." - **R. J. Teller**, American Classics teacher and professional magician

"Fortune favours the bold." - **Virgil**, Roman poet

"As is a tale, so is life: not how long it is, but how good it is, is what matters." - **Seneca the Younger**, Roman philosopher



Classical Languages

Why choose Classical Languages?

This subject will give an excellent opportunity for gifted linguists to stretch themselves and be academically courageous. You will be able to develop their linguistic ability and to further your understanding of the ancient world. You will be able to make good progress in Greek by applying your knowledge of grammar gained in Latin over the past two years. Classical Languages offers you the opportunity to study both Latin and Classical Greek, opening up not just one world of history, literature, politics, art and philosophy, but two! Classical Languages is a doubly rewarding subject because both languages are highly regarded for their academic rigour. Classical Greek, just like Latin, forms the basis of key words and technical jargon in Maths, Science, Medicine, Politics and Philosophy and both Classical Languages form the root of many European languages and it teaches you about the power of language in general. Through debates and discussions in class you develop confidence in speaking and an aptitude for explaining, arguing and persuading. Both Roman and Greek historical sources and literary texts teach us about all sorts of things that are still relevant to our lives today: philosophical ideas about justice, virtue, honour, truth, but also politics, history, the arts as well as the origins of science. Learning both Classical Languages will be highly valued by future employers, and will not just be useful for studying at Judd but also for life.

Am I a suitable student for this option?

This option is suitable for those who have made excellent progress in Latin in Year 8; and highly suited to motivated students of Latin who have regularly achieved an E or S of the WISE grades on reports and in assessments in year 8.

What and how will you be learning? By studying Classical Languages, you will:

- study Classical Greek together with Latin. The number of periods per fortnight is 5 - the same as that for the Latin-only option. This means that the pace of the lessons will be fast-moving.
- develop linguistic skills, translating and analysing Latin and Greek texts, and to study the significance of their historical and literary contexts;
- appreciate and deepen your understanding of Classical literature and history;
- enrich your experience of studying Classical Languages through various extracurricular activities.

In **Year 9**, the focus on both Classical Languages will be firmly on the languages themselves; you will continue to develop your grammatical knowledge and translation skills, with some attention to historical and cultural backgrounds, gradually preparing for the study of the GCSE literature texts which start in year 10. The Classical Greek syllabus is based on John Taylor's book *Greek to GCSE Part 1*. The Latin syllabus consists of the Latin language aspects of the *Suburani Course* Books 1 & 2. During the year we will make a start with the GCSE Greek Literature set texts, giving you access to the works of some of the greatest Greek historians and poets such as Herodotus, Homer and Euripides. You will learn in depth about ancient Greek life, mythology, politics, religion, and philosophy. During the Spring Term you will be given the opportunity to go on a day excursion, together with the Latin set, to the Roman baths of Aquae Sulis in Bath and learn about life in Roman Britain.

At the end of Year 9 you will have the opportunity to sit the ICCG examination, which offers the Intermediate Certificate of Classical Greek, a national qualification endorsed by UCAS ([intermediategreekcertificate](http://intermediategreekcertificate.org)).

Please note that, if the option proves to be oversubscribed at the end of year 8, selection may have to be made based on past performance in Latin. The course will only be able to proceed, if there are appropriate numbers.

At the end of Year 9 there are two options available for those who have studied Classical Languages, you can:

EITHER: continue with Classical Languages to GCSE level as ONE option (numbers permitting), leading to two GCSEs: Latin and Classical Greek;

OR: revert to Latin only for GCSE.

In **year 10**, you continue to develop your knowledge of both Classical Languages, and continue the study of Latin and Greek Literature. The set texts for GCSE give you access to the works of some of the greatest Greek and Roman authors (Homer, Herodotus, Euripides; and Livy, Cicero Pliny, Virgil and Horace, respectively). All questions in the literature papers will be based on material that has been extensively studied in class in years 9-11. As part of our extra-curricular activities you are offered the chance to go on the Classics trip to Italy, which includes three days in Rome, where we will visit famous sites such as the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Palatine Hill, Ostia, St. Peter's Basilica and San Sebastian catacombs, followed by four days in Campania, the region around the Bay of Naples, where we will visit Pompeii, Herculaneum, Mount Vesuvius and the island of Capri.

In **year 11**, you continue to consolidate and broaden your knowledge of Latin and Classical Greek, preparing for both GCSE examinations. Careful study, exam practice and revision are all part of the course.

How will the course be assessed?

Latin: The **Eduqas** Latin GCSE specification consists of three components, weighted as follows:

- Language (comprehension and translation): 50% (90 mins)
- Literature and Sources - Themes: 30% (75 mins)
- Literature - Narratives 20% (60 mins)

Classical Greek: The **OCR** Greek specification consists of three components, weighted as follows:

- Language (comprehension and translation): 50%
- Prose Literature: 25% (60 mins)
- Verse Literature: 25% (60 mins)

How do you find out more?

We hope you will be able to make an informed choice for all your GCSE subjects! If you have any questions about studying Classical Languages in Year 9 or continuing with both languages to GCSE, do speak to your Latin teacher, Ms Hargreaves, Mrs Cooper or Mr Thornton.

Head of Classical Languages: Ms V Hargreaves

*"If the violin is the most perfect musical instrument, the Greek language is the violin of human thought." **Helen Keller**, author, political activist, and lecturer*

*"If the Gods speak, they will surely use the language of the Greeks." **Marcus Tullius Cicero**, Roman philosopher, politician, lawyer, orator, political theorist, consul and constitutionalist*

Humanities

All students are required to take one Humanity, in addition to the core subject of Religious Studies; students may, of course, choose to take more than one. In year 10, those students studying History in Year 9 who wish to continue with the subject to GCSE, choose between Modern and Ancient History.

Geography

"Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future."

Michael Palin

Why study Geography?

Geography is an incredibly diverse, stimulating, exciting and relevant subject to study. Its breadth is one of the aspects of the subject which appeals most to students; there is something for everyone, it's never out-of-date and it's all around us, all of the time.

While geographers study a huge range of topics, from population change to volcanic eruptions, everything is linked to people and places. Geographers develop not only an excellent general knowledge of countries, environments and cultures but are aware of contemporary conflicts and challenges which can be global in scale or more local. They are truly critical thinkers!

Geography is very much an enquiry-based subject; we are always asking questions and encourage students to investigate places and issues that spark their interest. For instance, we will consider:

- ✓ Is the Yellowstone supervolcano a threat to mankind?
- ✓ What factors have made Honduras one of the most crime-ridden and dangerous countries on the planet?
- ✓ How have glaciers created some of the most dramatic landscapes in the UK?
- ✓ Why did Russia invade Ukraine in 2022 and what was the world's response?
- ✓ Should countries develop nuclear energy or focus on greener renewable energy instead?
- ✓ Why are Egypt and Ethiopia locked in a conflict over the ownership of the Nile's water resources?
- ✓ Having reached 8 billion people in 2022, will the world population keep growing at the same rate?
- ✓ How does world trade work and why did the 2021 obstruction of the Suez Canal by the Ever Given have a global impact?
- ✓ What will the world look like in 100 years if climate change continues?
- ✓ How has Qatar become the richest country in the world per person while the Central African Republic is the poorest?

Which topics do geographers study in Year 9 at Judd?

In Year 9, we begin to teach some of the GCSE content alongside our own schemes of work so it is a transition year between KS3 and GCSE. Topics include:

- **World Development:** *understanding why countries have developed at different rates, using statistics to measure development, explaining how countries trade with each other and suggesting how the poorest countries in the world might develop in the future.*
- **Extreme Geography:** *exploring the most extreme places on Earth, from the world-record breaking physical landscapes to the extraordinary human environments and freak events which have shaped our planet. We discover what qualifies a place as 'extreme' and take an extreme tour of the world!*
- **Population Change:** *measuring the world's population as it is now and tracking different countries as their populations rise or fall, understanding the reasons behind these changes, discovering the impacts of a population's size on countries and how governments can try to influence their population growth.*

- **Water Resources:** *understanding where the world's water resources are stored and how they can be accessed, explaining why 'water wars' can occur between countries and where the world's worst water conflicts are now. We also consider how the world can use its water resources sustainably in the future.*

Which topics are included in GCSE Geography at Judd?

In Years 10 and 11, students follow the [Edexcel Geography A syllabus](#) (1GA0) and the areas of study are:

Year 10: Changing cities, UK Landscapes, Glaciers and glaciated uplands, Resources and energy, Coastal landscapes.

Year 11: Weather hazards and climate change, Ecosystems and biodiversity, UK challenges.

What other skills will I develop?

Geography is an excellent subject for establishing a wide skill set which is why it is such a popular choice at GCSE, A-level and beyond. Throughout Year 9 and into the GCSE course, students continue to develop their skills of literacy and numeracy, map skills, graphical skills, ICT and GIS (Geographical Information Systems) techniques, investigative and practical skills, data interpretation and discussion. These not only enhance geographical understanding but also contribute to learning in other subject areas, which students have found to be a real advantage.

Do we go on fieldwork or trips?

Yes! Fieldwork is an essential part of the Geography curriculum and covers the practical side of the course, allowing us to investigate the topics that we are studying in class in the outdoor environment. Currently, students complete two days of fieldwork in Year 10 (one in an urban environment in Hastings and the second on a beach on the south coast investigating coastal landscapes).

We are also excited to announce that we will be taking our first international trip in July 2024 to Iceland for Year 11 students who have expressed an interest in continuing to the A level course. We will be seeing how Iceland harnesses its geothermal potential and copes with the ongoing tectonic hazard as well as having the opportunity to see Iceland's famous glaciers and waterfalls.

How will I be taught?

The Geography Department follow carefully sequenced lessons which aim to deepen students' knowledge of the world and to build their confidence using a range of geographical skills. Both sides of the subject (Physical and Human) are roughly balanced throughout and fieldwork is integrated as we cover linked topics. Teaching resources are kept as up-to-date as possible and we always aim to incorporate current world events whenever we can. We encourage students to think for themselves; students bring their own ideas and observations of different places to class and that is what makes this subject so exciting.

We use a range of teaching strategies which include teacher-led activities, group work, independent investigation and practical work.

How will I be assessed?

There is no coursework at GCSE in Geography. Students sit three exam papers (each 1 ½ hours): The Physical Environment, The Human Environment, Geographical Investigations.

What do Judd geographers say?

We asked three GCSE geographers their impressions of the course so far:

- *"I chose Geography because I love Science but also found the human side of the subject really interesting. Every topic is totally different – so one week you are finding out what it's like to live in the most polluted city on earth and the next, you're learning about ice sheets and how glaciers move. My favourite topic so far has been finding out about how freak storms happen, like tornadoes."* **Year 9 student.**

- *"The fieldwork is really good fun. It's great to be able to go somewhere with a research question, collect some data and then come back and analyse what you've found. And Hastings has awesome ice cream!"* **Year 10 student.**
- *"I like how current it is. What you learn in the lesson that day might be on the news that night. Geography also links to many other subjects, so I think it's going to be really useful for whatever combination of subjects I choose at A level. For example, having had a grounding in global development at GCSE has made me interested in world markets and trade which is a big part of A level Economics."* **Year 11 student.**

If you have any questions about the Geography course in Year 9 and at GCSE, you can talk to your teacher in lessons or come and find us in the department at any time.

Head of Geography: Ms M Yarham



History

History is a very popular subject at Judd, with large numbers of students choosing to continue their study of the past at GCSE level. Our two options - modern and ancient history - cover some fascinating topics and controversial figures from the modern and ancient world.

The Curriculum

Year 9

We follow a traditional curriculum at KS3, meaning our GCSE does not start until Year 10. This allows us to deliver national curriculum content in depth while also beginning to develop the skills required for GCSE, such as the interrogation of source evidence, research skills, informed debate and formal written communication. In Year 9 all students study the same course, the focus of which is the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The triumph of democracy	The rise of dictatorship	A new world order?
The turn of the century brought with it social and political change. We learn about: • chartism • universal suffrage, including votes for women • the liberal reforms Case study: World War I	Germany's loss in WWI ushered in a new democratic era, but it was short lived. In this topic we learn about why countries like Germany, Italy and the Soviet Union rejected democracy and instead turned to dictatorship. Case study: The Holocaust	World War II is arguably the most significant event of the twentieth century. Our focus is not just on the war itself, but also the social and political changes it triggered, for example civil rights in the US and the end of the British Empire. Case study: The use of nuclear weapons

GCSE

In Year 10 students can choose between continuing to study the modern world or take on a new challenge by opting for ancient history.

University of Cambridge iGCSE Modern World History

Assessment: Three exams at the end of Year 11

The iGCSE course deepens students' understanding of the twentieth century. The course is spread over two years and similar to the Year 9 programme of study, covers a range of themes from international relations, to warfare and social crises.

Y10

Interwar USA 1919-1941	International relations 1919-1939	The Cold War 1945-1949
		

Y11

The Cold War 1949-1991	Revision and Exam Prep
	

OCR GCSE Ancient History

Assessment: Two exams at the end of Year 11

Our GCSE in Ancient History helps students explore and appreciate the ancient world. It offers students the chance to study some of the major characters from history, including the Persian kings Cyrus the Great and Xerxes; Romulus and the Etruscan Kings of Rome. The course covers defining events such as the Greco-Persian Wars, the Battle of Thermopylae, the foundation of Rome, and the Roman empire in Egypt. The Ancient History GCSE gives students the chance to study a range of societies under different forms of rule, whether monarchs, republics, tyrants or democracies.

Y10

Introduction to Ancient History 	The Persian Empire 559-465 BC 	Athens in the Age of Pericles 462-429 BC 
		Alexander the Great 356-323 BC 

Y11

Rome and its neighbours 753-440 BC 	Cleopatra: Rome and Egypt, 69-30BC 	Revision and Exam Prep 
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How is the course taught?

At Judd we take an active approach to teaching history because we want you to be as excited about the past as we are. This means we use a huge range of sources to ensure you can relate to the era we study. We show you how to use that evidence to build, present and defend your own interpretations of the past. And while you will need to write some essays, there is much more to GCSE History than essays and dates!

Trips, visits and extracurricular

Whenever possible, we will take students out of the classroom to experience historical sites as we strongly believe these experiences help students to grow as historians. Within school there are vibrant Historical Societies, led by sixth formers and staff but open to all year groups. It provides a platform for niche historical interests to be explored with fellow historians.

Why continue with history?

Most people study History simply because they find it interesting. They like to find out what life was like in the past and use their problem solving skills to develop theories about why events happened and how individuals helped to change the world. But History also helps you to develop some very useful and employable skills.

By studying history students learn to analyse, evaluate and interpret as well as research and write well structured paragraphs and essays. At Judd we place a strong emphasis on developing the ability to critically consume information and use that knowledge to challenge the ideas of others, in a polite and respectful but robust manner.

Head of History: Mrs R Nagar

Creative Subjects

Every student at Judd is required to take at least one Creative subject at GCSE. Students may, of course, choose to take more than one.

Art and Design

The Judd Art Department offers [AQA Fine Art](#) (8202) full course at GCSE over three years.

GCSE Fine Art

This GCSE course provides students with a wide range of opportunities to explore their interests in Art and Design, develop practical skills and express themselves by creating personal outcomes.

Candidates receive technical instruction in a range of materials and processes. They are then encouraged to develop as independent, creative individuals, producing personal responses to themes set by their teacher and by the AQA exam board.

Unit 1 Portfolio of Work

96 marks: 60% of GCSE. Set and marked by the centre and moderated by AQA

The assessed portfolio of work is composed of 2 elements; the first chapter is teacher-led, and the second part of the portfolio is directed more independently by the student.

1. A selection of trials and experiments

We start the course in year 9 with an introduction to advanced practical processes. Students will work through an induction process covering a variety of techniques within the following areas; drawing, painting and printmaking. Students will also develop their critical understanding and written analysis skills through the theoretical study of artwork from different times and cultures.

2. A sustained project

Having developed confidence in their technical abilities through the induction process, in years 10-11 students will carry out their 'sustained project', developing personal and independent responses to a given theme. Teachers and technicians will support, encourage and advise students throughout the self-directed process.

Throughout the coursework process, students carefully select, annotate and present their work on study sheets for submission and final assessment. The portfolio is submitted in January of year 11.

Unit 2 Externally Set Assignment

96 marks: 40% of GCSE - Marked by the centre and moderated by AQA

Question papers are issued by the AQA exam board, and are given out in lessons on or after January 1st when students are in Year 11. Students respond to a starting point (a 'theme' word, very broad and open to interpretation) chosen from an externally set assignment paper. There is 3 month period of preparatory time before the 10 hours of supervised practical work which normally takes place after the Easter holidays. The 10 hours take place over 2 school days, with breaks in between sessions, roughly following the pattern of a normal school day.

All assessment objectives must be met through a combination of the project work completed before the exam, and a final outcome produced under controlled conditions. The project is marked as a whole. The mark is not solely based on the outcome of the 10 hour exam - the preparatory work counts towards approximately 75% of the Unit 2 mark.

GCSE Assessment objectives:

Candidates must demonstrate their ability to:

AO1	Develop their ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
AO2	Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
AO3	Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
AO4	Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

Past Moderator's comments:

"Students' confidence in the use of a wide range of media and their most personal, thoughtful outcomes were as a result of an excellent course of study in the Fine Art endorsement. It was a pleasure to see their work."

"Many of the students whose work was seen were actively engaged in the process of art and design in order to develop as independent learners and reflective young people with enquiring minds."

"Many were confident in taking risks and had an understanding of the role of contemporary art in society, by questioning and responding to art in its broadest sense."

For further information or advice on any aspect of the course students should see:

Head of Art: Ms L Bartholomew



Computer Science

What is Computer Science & where did it come from?

Computer Science became a recognised subject on the National Curriculum in September 2014, but the subject itself has origins back as far as the 1830s when [Ada Lovelace](#) adopted Charles Babbage's [Analytical Engine](#) to create and run the first computer program.

However, it was [Alan Turing](#) that through his [1936 paper "On Computable Numbers"](#) effectively founded Computer Science because it introduced the concept of a theoretical machine, now known as a [Turing machine](#), that could perform any computation that could be described in a mathematical formula.

Computer science has become the study of computers and computational systems.

Why choose Computer Science?

With the rise of the interconnected World Wide Web, the smart device, wireless connectivity, Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (to name just a few), the world around us has become a digital workspace and understanding how these technologies and services work has become integral to getting ahead whether you wish to become a programmer, a mathematician, a scientist or indeed any other subject specialist.

At Judd, we teach our students the importance of computational thinking to help us understand the problems in front of us through the likes of decomposition and abstraction and then use tools such as programming languages to design and develop suitable real-world solutions.

As Steve Jobs, a Product Manager, once said:

"Everyone in this country should learn how to program because it teaches you how to think."

Our Curriculum

Our Curriculum for Key Stage 4 navigates through the [National curriculum for Computer Science - Key Stage 3 & 4](#) during Year-9 before transitioning into the [OCR GCSE Computer Science \(J277\)](#) examination standard through Year-10 and 11.

Year-9

Term #1	Computational thinking & the basics of procedural programming
Term #2	Additional programming techniques & Boolean logic
Term #3	Apps for Good - https://www.appsforgood.org/
Term #4	C++ vs Python - Comparing different high-level languages
Term #5	ExperienceAI - https://experience-ai.org/en/
Term #6	Procedural Programming Project

Year-10 & Year-11 - [OCR GCSE Computer Science \(J277\)](#)

Component #1 Computer systems	Component #2 Computational thinking & programming
1.1 - Systems architecture 1.2 - Memory & storage 1.3 - Computer networks 1.4 - Network security 1.5 - Systems & utility software 1.6 - Ethical, legal & environmental	2.1 - Computational thinking 2.2 - Programming fundamentals 2.3 - Robust programming 2.4 - Boolean logic 2.5 - Programming languages & IDEs
Written paper: 1 hour & 30 minutes 50% of total GCSE: 80-marks	Written paper: 1 hour & 30 minutes 50% of total GCSE: 80-marks

Year-10 - OCR GCSE Computer Science (J277)

Term #1	1.2 - Memory & storage (Data representation)
Term #2	1.1 - Systems architecture
Term #3	1.3 - Computer networks
Term #4	2.1 - Computational thinking & algorithms
Term #5	2.4 - Boolean logic & 2.5 - Programming languages & IDEs
Term #6	2.2 - Programming, 2.3 - Robust programs & Programming project

Year-11 - OCR GCSE Computer Science (J277)

Term #1	1.6 - Ethical, legal, environmental & cultural impacts
Term #2	1.4 - Network security
Term #3	1.5 - Systems & utility software
Term #4	Specification reboot, exam practice & techniques
Term #5	Exam practice & techniques

Key Stage 4 - Curriculum enrichment

Bletchley Park	National Museum of Computing	Apps for Good Showcase
Bebras UK & OUCC	Perse Coding Team Challenge	British Informatics Olympiad

In addition to the extra-curricular activities listed above, Key Stage 4 computer science students are invited to participate in the **Judd CS Drone (& Robotics) Club**.

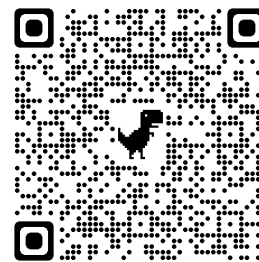
Beyond GCSE

Students will have the opportunity to study [OCR A Level Computer Science \(H446\)](#) at A Level in years 12 & 13 on the successful completion of OCR GCSE Computer Science (J277) or equivalent.

We look forward to you joining us on this journey! *Head of Computer Science; Mr M J Barrow.*

Design and Technology

This is an exciting and challenging course, highly relevant in the 21st century. The course aims to encourage students to problem solve through the design and manufacture of prototype products and develop knowledge and understanding of Design & Engineering industries. Our department is a firm believer in the need to develop and modernise design & technology. We are passionate about promoting its value in our increasingly technological world! Watch the video in the QR code on the right for a video from the James Dyson Foundation, that has helped form some of our curriculum focus.



Technical knowledge and understanding is developed through studying a range of topics in theory lessons. You will also continue to develop designing and prototyping skills through a number of design projects in year 9 & 10. Studying this subject will help to develop creative, critical thinking skills in design projects with more opportunity for creative design development than commonly found in our KS3 projects. Practical skills are developed to allow you to prototype design ideas and test them with an increasing level of independence. Our focus is to develop practical skills that facilitate testing of your design thinking, but completing practical projects should not be the reason for selecting this subject.

Pupils use a wide range of materials and processes in this department, including a strong emphasis on Computer Aided Design and Manufacture (CAD/CAM.) The GCSE specification has wide-reaching cross-curricular links and has been significantly updated in recent years. The exam content focuses on technical factors (including some maths) and has an emphasis towards the STEM links with the subject. There are also strong links to global issues studied in the Geography curriculum (Energy generation & environment.)

In year 11 students complete a large design project for the NEA (non-examined assessment) that is set in June of year 10 by the exam board. Pupils work to develop a design solution to the set design context. Research, sketching and modelling are used to develop a design idea, and a range of manufacturing methods used to create a working prototype of the students' own design. This project is highly independent and designed to allow students to demonstrate their understanding and ability as a designer.

Year 9 Course

In Year 9 we begin following units of work to prepare students for the theory exam in this subject. 2 lessons a fortnight are allocated as 'theory' lessons. In Year 9 & 10 students will cover a number of theory units for this GCSE, each concluding with an end of unit test to develop the exam technique required of students in this subject. We aim to complete the theory course in the first two years to allow all Y11 Lessons to be focused on the NEA project from September until March.

Year 9	Unit 1 - New & Emerging Technologies
	Unit 2 - Energy, Materials, Systems and Devices
	Unit 3 - Materials and their Working Properties
	Unit 4 - Common Specialist Technical Principles
Year 10	Unit 5B - Timber Based Materials
	Unit 5C - Metal Based Materials
	Unit 5D - Polymers
	Unit 6 - Designing Principles
	Unit 7 - Making Principles

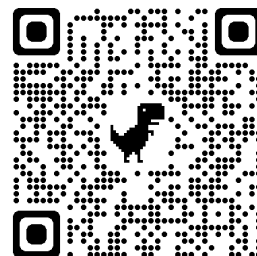
In the remaining lessons year 9 students start by completing 4 projects that develop a range of design skills that are highly valued in the GCSE NEA.

Project	Content	Core Skills
DESIGN PROJECT	Working to an open-ended design context (in the style of the GCSE NEA) to write your own design brief. Using research, modelling and testing to create prototypes in an iterative design process.	Design research & investigations. Generating creative design solutions. Iterative design process. Prototyping and testing. Making a digital design portfolio.
3D CAD Modelling	Using 'Onshape' to produce 3D CAD models. Some tutorial work is followed by a short project to 'reverse engineer' LEGO models.	3D CAD modelling for 3D printing and other CNC processes.
Candle Holder	Working with sheet aluminium to design and make a candle holder.	Understanding a manufacturing method, designing a product and planning manufacture to 'fit the process'
Electronic Timer	Building simple circuits and making a vacuum formed casing.	Working with electronic components. Assembling multiple parts into a well finished product.

Further Study

Students that go on to study this subject into year 10&11 will continue to study further theory units, including covering specialist materials knowledge in Timbers, Metals & Polymers. Year 10 includes a further 'Mock NEA' project, that prepares students well to tackle the NEA task set in June of year 10.

Students who go on to study this subject at A Level often have an interest in engineering or design, but the relevance of the subject can be more wide reaching with strong links into business and project management, Geography and Psychology.



The QR code links to a video from the Design & Technology association about the value of D&T.

Scheme of Assessment GCSE

Written Paper: 50% of total marks. Candidates will be tested on their knowledge and understanding of the design and development process, a range of different materials and manufacturing processes.

Non-Examined Assessment: 50% of total marks. One practical project (which should typically represent about 40 hours of workshop time) together with a supporting design folder detailing all aspects of the piece. A range of materials may be selected for use including paper/card, wood, metal, plastics, textiles and electronic components.

Head of Design & Technology: Mr F Reay

Drama

GCSE Drama allows for students to explore their creativity, group working and analytical skills. It's fun and fast paced and we aim to create confident cultural young people through our exploration of theatre, the arts and their place in society. A largely practical course within lesson times, students will have opportunities to watch National Theatre Live productions, using our digital platforms to expose the students to a vast and exciting range of professional theatre in our new and custom built drama studio along with a trip to watch a live show in London in Year 11. Students will be required to maintain a drama journal throughout the course with written reflections and tasks that go alongside the practical work completed in lessons.



Assessment	Total % towards GCSE
Devising <i>Recorded group performance of original piece of theatre created by students and a portfolio of 2000 words.</i> <i>Summer Term Year 10</i>	40%
Performance from Text <i>Live Performance in front of an examiner.</i> <i>Spring Term Year 11</i>	20%
Theatre Makers in Practice <i>Written exam in Year 11 studying set text 'The Crucible' and a review of live theatre.</i> <i>Exam end of Year 11</i>	40%

Year 9

Students will undertake a practical exploration of the required skills at GCSE Drama, initially focusing on developing their performance skills, group working and considered use of structure and form. They will be introduced to the 3 components of the GCSE in the first two terms. Alongside this introduction they will begin their studies of theatrical practitioners and genres of performance.

Year 10

Students will take part in extended studies of the set text 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller. This will involve a full practical and theoretical exploration of the whole text. There will be an opportunity to watch the National Theatre production of 'The Crucible' in school. Year 10 will have devising workshops in groups over prolonged periods allowing them to devise a piece of original theatre.

Year 11

Students will be using all their prior learning, theoretical and practical, to prepare their group pieces of 2 scenes/excerpts of a play text. They will apply their performance skills and theoretical knowledge to create an artistic interpretation of their text and scenes that will be performed for an external examiner. Our year 11 classes will then enjoy a trip to watch a live piece of theatre in London, which they will use for their final written exam.

Areas of Study

Textual Studies - Students will gain experience in rehearsing and performing a variety of texts from different genres and periods. Theoretically, they will learn about the social and historical context of these plays to add depth to their understanding and develop appropriate performance styles to their practical work. Students will gain knowledge of the different creative periods in history and how these were products of political and sociological factors of the time. They will consider the overall purpose of art within society and begin to develop their own understanding of the next period of artistic production within our society, its purpose and meaning.

Devising - Students will advance their ability in creating original theatre. They will study a range of theatrical practitioners and styles of theatre to allow them to experiment and 'play' with these concepts during the creative process. Students will learn how to put meaning, purpose and message along with artistic intention into structure and form and hone these skills to produce meaningful and impactful theatre.

Review of Live Theatre and Text Analysis - Students will develop their analytical and dramaturgical writing in order to answer exam questions based on the set text, which they have explored both practically and theoretically from Year 10 and a review of live theatre.

Technical Theatre Option - As part of the GCSE drama there is a technical theatre route available for all 3 components. This will be discussed as a potential in conjunction with the teacher due to the independence of study required. This allows students to choose the option of looking at set, lighting or sound design and costume development. They can choose to focus on this for their live theatre review in the component 3 written exam. They can apply to take on the role of one of the above technical routes for both component 1 (devising) and component 2 (text performance).

Exam board: Pearson Edexcel GCSE Drama GCSE

Specification: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/drama-2016.html>

Head of GCSE Drama: Mrs A. Jones



Music

Music is open to all students who have enjoyed working in music in Years 7-8 and would like to continue at a deeper level. The aim of the course is to provide students with wide-ranging, essentially practical experience of musical skills and understanding, suitable both as a basis for study of music at A-level and a creative outlet for an interest in music.

Year 9 will be used to build the necessary skills for GCSE, continuing with mostly practical learning. Students will start to be introduced to the topics we study in the GCSE and will learn to both play and compose in various styles, such as Rock and Roll, Samba, Film Music and Baroque Minuet. Students will use programming software Soundtrap and notation software Sibelius, to create their own music. They will continue to learn the basics of GCSE music theory throughout the year. At the end of year 9, students will develop their own projects either performing, composing or researching in a style of their choice,

Moving into year 10 there will continue to be considerable freedom to explore your preferred musical styles in what you compose and perform. The course continues to develop the skills of performing, composing and appraising and **60% of the course is practical coursework.**

Students will follow an integrated course based on the four fundamental components: **Performing** (30%), **Composing** (30%), and **Listening/Appraising** (40%).

Part of the practical focus is on the student's own instrument or voice on which they are required to undertake one solo performance and write a composition for which they set the brief themselves. They are then required to perform as part of an ensemble and complete a composition to a set brief.

Previous instrumental, vocal or music technology experience is desirable. It must be considered essential for all students to develop performing skills both in the classroom and at home. Instrumental or vocal lessons must be seen as complementary study.

The course will involve the study, analysis and understanding of music from five areas of study:

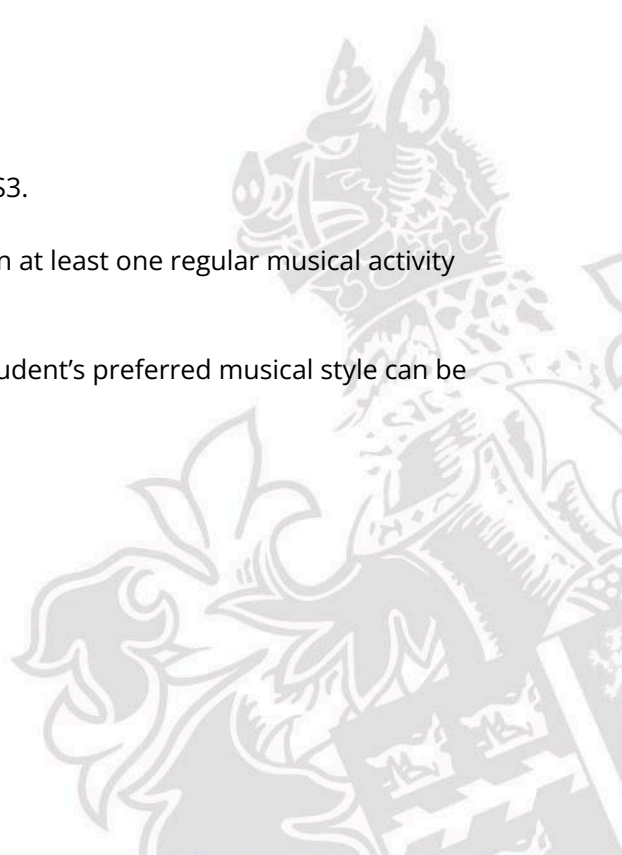
1. My Music
2. The Concerto through time (Western Classical music)
3. Rhythms of the world
4. Film Music
5. Conventions of pop

The study of these areas will build on the knowledge gained in KS3.

All students who take the course will be expected to participate in at least one regular musical activity which can be in school or outside of school.

Students are taught with a very flexible approach so that each student's preferred musical style can be explored and developed.

Head of Music: Mrs R Reilly



Physical Education

Why choose this subject?

This presents an opportunity for those with a passion for sport and games activities, whilst offering a broad and varied subject area of Physiology, Psychology, and Cultural aspects of physical activity.

What and how will you be learning?

In Year 9, most fortnights there will be one practical lesson, with all other lessons classroom based. The academic rigour and depth of the learning required should not be underestimated; this is not simply a larger 'Games' option. Typical content can be seen in the outline assessment table below and follows the **AQA GCSE PE Specification (8582)**.

How will the course be assessed?

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport	+ Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport	+ Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport
What's assessed • Applied anatomy and physiology • Movement analysis • Physical training • Use of data	What's assessed • Sports psychology • Socio-cultural influences • Health, fitness and well-being • Use of data	What's assessed • Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity). • Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.
How it's assessed • Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes • 78 marks • 30% of GCSE	How it's assessed • Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes • 78 marks • 30% of GCSE	How it's assessed • Assessed by teachers • Moderated by AQA • 100 marks • 40% of GCSE
Questions • Answer all questions. • A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.	Questions • Answer all questions. • A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.	Questions • For each of their three activities, students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in the full context (15 marks per activity). • Students will be assessed on their analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

What is the non-exam assessment?

The NEA accounts for 40% of the overall grade and is made up of both practical and written assessment. Students are expected to choose three sports from a [wide list of activities](#) (see pages 45-50) in which they will be assessed in skills and full-context performance. This must include at least one individual and one team sport. In the written component students will analyse and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses in one chosen sport from the list.

Head of PE: Mr C K Dobson

Other helpful information

A summary of the methods of GCSE assessment

Subject	Board	Exams	Non-examination assessment
Mathematics	Edexcel	3 papers: 1½ hours each	
English Language	AQA	Paper 1: 1¾ hours Paper 2: 1¾ hours	
English Literature	AQA	Paper 1: 1¾ hours Paper 2: 2¼ hours	
Biology	AQA	Paper 1: 1¾ hours Paper 2: 1¾ hours	
Chemistry	AQA	Paper 1: 1¾ hours Paper 2: 1¾ hours	
Physics	AQA	Paper 1: 1¾ hours Paper 2: 1¾ hours	
Art & Design	AQA		A portfolio of work (60% of total mark) 2 nd NEA: 40% controlled assignment project + 10 hour exam
Computer Science	OCR	2 papers 1½ hours each	
Design and Technology	AQA	50% of mark - 2 hours	Y11: Design project (50% of total mark)
French	AQA	4 papers: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing (25% each)	
Geography	Edexcel A	3 papers x 1½ hours. The Physical Environment, The Human Environment, Geographical Investigations	
German	AQA	4 papers: Listening, Reading & Writing, Speaking (25% each)	
Modern History	(CIE) IGCSE	3 exams at end of Y11 - P1 International Relations 2hrs, P2 Sources 2hrs, P4 Extended Writing 1hr.	
Ancient History	OCR	2 papers: 1¾ hours each	
Latin	OCR	Paper 1: 1½ hours: Language 50% Papers 2 & 3: Each 1 hour: Literature - each paper 25%	
Music	OCR	1 paper: Listening & appraising: 40% - 1½ hours	Performance, solo and group - 30% Composition, free and to a brief - 30%
PE	AQA	Typically 2 papers, each 1¼ hours, each 30% of GCSE	Practical Performance (30% across 3 sports) & Analysis and Evaluation (10%)
RS	AQA	2 papers: (Islam and Christianity) and Themes. 1 hour 45 minutes each.	

Making Your Choices

Your parents/carers will have likely attended Options Evening on **Wednesday 25 March 2026**. This will allow them to understand the options available to you and the choices you are being asked to make. For year 8, on **23 April and 30 April 2026** there will be Year 8 Parents Evenings. This will be an opportunity for you and your parents to ask your subject teachers any questions you might have about the options subjects.

Following the Information Evening, you will be emailed a link to the Options Form together with our recommendation of the Curriculum that you should study. You need to record your options choices on [this form](#), by **Tuesday 5 May 2026**. You can edit your responses at any time up until this date, using the link in the email that will be sent to you when you submit.

Make sure you are logged into your school account so you can access the [Google form](#). Your form will look like this:

First Name (Student) *

Your answer

Surname (Student) *

Your answer

House *

Choose

Let us know the Curriculum you were recommended and that which you would like to study:

Which curriculum were you recommended by the school? *

☐ Full Curriculum - 11 GCSEs

☐ Focussed Curriculum - 10 or fewer GCSEs

☐ Not sure

Which Curriculum are you choosing to study? *

☐ Full Curriculum - 11 GCSEs

☐ Focussed Curriculum - 10 or fewer GCSEs

Next

Clear form

Then make your subject choices:

Full Curriculum

Full Curriculum

Choose your compulsory Language *

☐ French

☐ German

☐ Latin

☐ Classical Languages (Greek & Latin)

Choose your compulsory Humanity *

☐ Geography

☐ History (Modern)

☐ History (Ancient)

☐ History (No preference of period of study)

Choose your compulsory 'Creative' subject *

☐ Art

☐ Computer Science

☐ Design and Technology

Focused Curriculum

Focused Curriculum

For students looking to study fewer subjects in order to be successful

Subject Groups

Humanities	Geography, History and Religious Studies
Languages	French, German, Latin and Classical Languages
Creative Subjects	Art, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Drama, Music, Physical Education

1st Subject Choice *

Please place your subjects in preference order, ensuring you have chosen from **at least two of the subject groups**.

Choose

2nd Subject Choice *

Please place your subjects in preference order, ensuring you have chosen from **at least two of the subject groups**. Please do repeat choices from earlier selections.

Choose

Please follow the instructions in the form carefully.

You will receive an email to your school email (student) account with your choices, as confirmation, and a link should you wish to return to the form to alter any of your choices before the deadline.

The deadline for submission of your options form is Tuesday 5 May 2026.