



FORRES  
SANDLE  
MANOR  
FORDINGBRIDGE

GCSE  
Courses

FSM





# Subjects

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## Book A Private Tour

For further information about the Senior School at Forres Sandle Manor and to arrange your private tour, please contact our Registrar.



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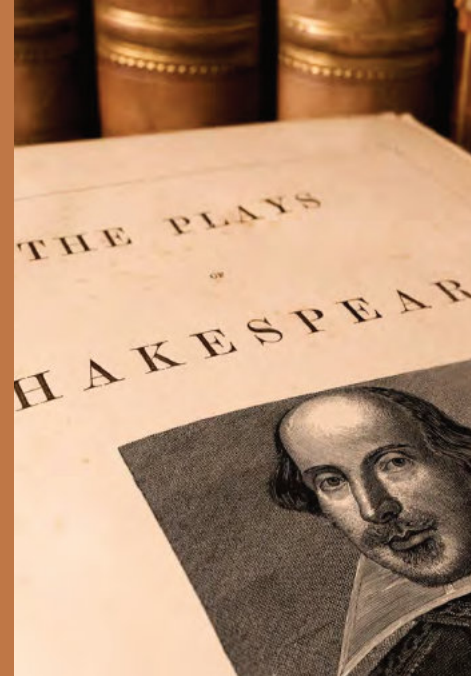
Mrs Lauren Brown



# English Language & Literature

## Exam Board: AQA

This course nurtures and deepens key skills in reading, writing and spoken English which will serve you throughout your studies here, and well beyond. We will discuss and consider thought provoking themes and topics alongside our investigation into how grammar, structure and language work together to create deeper meanings and specific effects. Using both modern and traditional, high-quality texts to achieve this, we also aim to inspire and further your own journey as a reader and writer. Immersive trips; guest speakers; memorable debates and competitions further underpin this core and integral part of our curriculum.



## The Course

All pupils study a two-year course in both English Language and Literature, which will be examined at the end of Year 11. The aims of the course are to develop your ability to:

- Communicate effectively in both speech and writing
- Understand and respond perceptively to what is read, heard and experienced
- Enjoy and appreciate the reading of literature, learning to read in depth and understanding the context in which texts were written.

## Exams and Assessment

**English Language** - The course is assessed in two ways. Pupils will sit two exam papers as follows:

Exams	Content
Paper 1	Creative Reading and Writing - An unseen literary extract focusing on pupils' comprehension skills and understanding of writer's techniques. This is followed by a creative writing task. 80 marks, 50% of GCSE English Language.
Paper 2	Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives - Two unseen linked sources from different time periods and genres assessing pupils' exploration of how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader. There will also be a written task with a specific genre, audience and purpose for pupils to write on a topic related to the unseen source texts. 80 marks, 50% of GCSE English Language.
Spoken Language Presentation	A short individual presentation on any chosen topic followed by a question and answer session, recorded during Year 11. This is awarded a separate certificate and does not affect the GCSE grade for English Language.

**English Literature** - Pupils will sit two exam papers as follows:

Exams	Content
Paper 1	Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel - We will study Romeo and Juliet, as well as A Christmas Carol. 64 marks. 40% of GCSE
Paper 2	Modern Texts and Poetry - This will test pupils' knowledge of An Inspector Calls, the Power and Conflict poetry anthology and the analytical skills of unseen poetry. 96 marks, 60% of GCSE.

# Mathematics



## Exam Board: AQA

Mathematics is for everyone. It plays a critical role in our world and is the international language of the world. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. Mathematics teaches you skills that you can use in many different work and personal situations and it provides an effective way of building mental strength and encourages logical reasoning. The understanding of mathematics can also help students to better grasp the theories and contents of other subjects.

## The Course

The course involves the following subject areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

By the end of the course you will have developed the ability to:

- Accurately recall facts, terminology and definitions
- Use and interpret notation correctly
- Accurately carry out routine procedures or set tasks requiring multi-step solutions
- Make deductions, inferences and draw conclusions from mathematical information.
- Translate problems in mathematical or non-mathematical contexts into a process or a series of mathematical processes
- Make and use connections between different parts of mathematics.

## Assessment

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). Students must take three question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

Exams	Content
Paper 1, 2, 3	There are 3 papers to tackle; 1 non-calculator and 2 calculator papers. Each paper is a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper. Each paper is 90 minutes in duration and assessed externally.

## Opportunities

Careers: Accounting, Banking, Computer & IT, Engineering Science.

Subjects: Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, IT, Economics, Business and Biology.

# Biology

## Exam Board: AQA

Biology is the study of life – the very building blocks of everything that we experience and understand. GCSE Biology equips students with a broad understanding of the living world around them, teaching them about the fundamentals of life, from the smallest of cells to complex organisms and ecosystems. Through studying Biology, students develop critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities and an appreciation for the importance of scientific research in everyday life. The topics encountered help them to make informed decisions about their health, behaviour and environmental impact as they progress into adulthood.



## The Course

The AQA GCSE Biology course covers a wide range of topics divided into eight sections:

- Cell Biology – the structure of animal, plant and bacterial cells as well as the function of each major organelle and comparisons between different cell types
- Organisation – organ systems in humans and other animals, including the digestive system, circulatory system and respiratory system
- Infection and Response – pathogens, immunity, vaccination and antibiotics
- Bioenergetics – photosynthesis and respiration and the role of enzymes in these processes
- Homeostasis and Response – the mechanisms by which organisms maintain a stable internal environment, including the nervous system, hormones and the regulation of blood glucose
- Inheritance, Variation and Evolution.
- Ecology – ecosystems, food chains and webs, and the impact of human activity on the environment.

Throughout the course, students develop a range of skills including data analysis, problem solving and research skills. They also develop practical skills through a range of experiments including investigating the effect of pH on enzyme activity, measuring the rate of respiration in living organisms and investigating the effect of exercise on heart rate.

Exams	Content
Paper 1	1 hour 45 minute paper, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE – can take Foundation or Higher tier. Content includes topics 1-4: Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection and Response, Bioenergetics.
Paper 2	1 hour 45 minute paper, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE – can take Foundation or Higher tier. Content includes topics 5-7: Homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.

## Opportunities

Students studying GCSE Biology can progress to further study in Biology, Environmental Sciences, PE and Psychology at A level and then onto related subjects such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Nursing and allied health professions (such as audiology, physiotherapy), Zoology, Biomechanics, Genetics, Conservation Ecology and Neuroscience.

# Chemistry

## Exam Board: AQA

Studying GCSE Chemistry provides students with a unique way of thinking and problem-solving. Chemistry involves understanding complex systems and processes and breaking them down into their individual components, which can be used to predict and explain chemical reactions. This kind of thinking is useful in a wide range of further education and careers, from engineering to finance, and helps students to develop analytical and critical thinking skills that can be applied to any subject or career. Practical chemistry is embedded throughout the course, supporting students to practice their independence, initiative and hands-on abilities, whilst providing an insight into the life of career scientists.



## The Course

The AQA Chemistry course covers a wide range of topics divided into ten main sections:

- Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table
- Bonding, Structure and the Properties of Matter – the prerequisites for and characteristics of ionic, covalent and metallic bonding
- Quantitative Chemistry – chemical calculations including balancing equations, calculating moles and calculating concentrations
- Chemical Changes – different types of chemical reactions, including precipitation, acid-base and redox reactions and electrolysis
- Energy Changes – exothermic and endothermic reactions
- The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change
- Organic Chemistry – the structure and properties of different types of organic compounds such as alkanes, alkenes and alcohols, the formation and formulation of crude oil and polymerisation reactions.
- Chemical Analysis
- Chemistry of the Atmosphere – the history and development of the current composition of the atmosphere, global warming and the effects of different atmospheric pollutants
- Using Resources – the extraction and uses of materials as well as the production and use of fertilisers.

Throughout the course, students develop practical skills through a range of experiments such as investigating the effect of concentration on reaction rate, determining enthalpy change of a reaction and identifying unknown substances through chemical analysis. Overall the course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the chemical world and the processes that govern it.

Exams	Content
Paper 1	1 hour 45 minutes, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE. Covers atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes and energy changes. Foundation and higher level exams available.
Paper 2	1 hour 45 minutes, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE. Covers the rate and extent of chemical change, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources. Foundation and Higher level exams available.

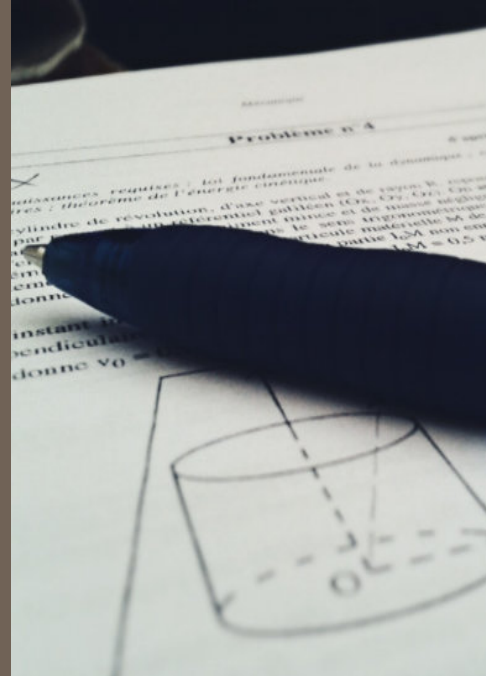
## Opportunities

Further study in Chemistry or related subjects such as Medicine, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Pharmacy and Pharmacology or Environmental Science. Chemistry is a prerequisite for many university level courses including medicine and is valued in a variety of careers including Analytical Chemistry, Materials Science, Food Science, Biotechnology, Energy and Space Science.

# Physics

## Exam Board: AQA

GCSE Physics is an essential subject that helps students to understand the natural laws that govern the universe. Physics allows students to explore fundamental concepts such as motion, energy and force, providing a framework for understanding everything from the behaviour of subatomic particles to the workings of the universe itself. Physics also teaches students how to think abstractly and use mathematical models to describe physical phenomena, which is an essential skill in many fields, including engineering and computer science. Physics also provides students with the tools to solve real-world problems, such as designing efficient energy systems or developing new technologies to combat climate change, or to increase supplies of food and clean water.



## The Course

The GCSE Physics course covers a broad range of topics divided into eight main sections:

- Energy - energy changes and transfers, the conservation of energy, and energy stores and systems.
- Electricity - electric circuits, current, voltage, resistance and electrical power
- Particle Model of Matter - the properties matter, including the behaviour of particles and how they relate to pressure, temperature and density
- Atomic Structure - the structure of atoms, the periodic table and radioactivity
- Forces - forces and motion, including speed acceleration, and Newton's Laws of Motion
- Waves - wave properties including reflection, refraction and diffraction
- Magnetism and electromagnetism – magnetic fields and their role in generating electricity, the motor effect and transformers
- Space – the formation of the solar system, life-history of a star and the beginning and future of the universe.

Throughout this course, students develop a range of skills including problem solving, data analysis and mathematical skills. They will be able to display scientific thinking skills such as thinking critically about investigations and data and developing reasoned, testable hypotheses. They also develop practical skills through a range of experiments including investigating the resistance of wires, measuring the speed of sound and investigating the link between force and acceleration.

Exams	Content
Paper 1	1 hour 45 minutes, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE. Covers Atomic structure and the periodic table, Bonding, structure and the properties of matter, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes and Energy changes. Foundation and Higher level exams available.
Paper 2	1 hour 45 minutes, 100 Marks, 50% of GCSE. Includes Forces, Waves, Magnetism and Electromagnetism, Space physics. Some content may be carried over from Paper 1. Foundation and Higher exams available.

## Opportunities

Students who study GCSE Physics can progress to further study in Physics or related subjects such as Astrophysics, Engineering, Materials Science or Computer Science. Physics can lead to a variety of careers including Engineering, Medicine, Science Communication, Environmental Science, Research and Development, Data Science, Business Analysis and many more. Physics graduates are very highly sought after in industries such as Aerospace, Energy and Telecommunications and have a major role to play in solving some of the great challenges of our time.



# Optional Subjects

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# Art, Craft & Design

**Exam Board: AQA**

## Why choose this course?

This course builds on the foundation of the core elements of Art. It challenges students to question and evaluate as they progress their work. Contextualising their own practice, the course provides the opportunity to develop analytical skills and knowledge of Art and Design.



## The Course

The GCSE syllabus encourages a full exploration of a range of disciplines and students will be able to experiment with painting, drawing, printmaking, collage, mixed-media, as well as three-dimensional work, photography and digital manipulation.

Students will learn how to develop through a project, reviewing their work as they investigate their ideas and respond to the work of others, informing their own practice. Students will develop their practical and analytical skills as they explore techniques and processes, building on their visual literacy and appreciation of the work of artists and designers. The course culminates with an exhibition of students' work at the end of June in Year 11.

## Exams and Assessment

Exams	Content
Unit 1 - Coursework Portfolio	One Coursework unit containing three separate projects (60%) Coursework must be complete by the time the Externally Set Assignment takes place.
Unit 2 - Examination	One Externally Set Assignment unit comprising one project based on an external examination paper takes place in January of Year 11 (40%) Candidates receive the question paper in advance and have approximately eight weeks to prepare before a set assignment period of ten hours spread over two days.

## Opportunities

Students who have chosen Art at GCSE have progressed to courses and careers in Architecture, Set Design, Fashion and Textiles, Product Design, Advertising, Communication and Marketing, History of Art, TV and Film Making and Photography, as well as the Fine Arts.

# Computer Science

## Exam Board: OCR

### Why choose this course?

Studying Computer Science at GCSE is crucial for pupils who wish to develop essential skills for the digital age. With technology playing an ever-increasing role in all areas of our lives, a solid understanding of computer science concepts, such as programming, algorithms, and data analysis, is essential. This subject provides pupils with a foundation for a career in technology and fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that are applicable across various disciplines.

Furthermore, the curriculum incorporates relevant topics such as cybersecurity, ethics, and digital citizenship, which are vital for responsible and safe technology use. Studying Computer Science at GCSE provides pupils with practical skills and knowledge that are necessary for success in a rapidly evolving digital world.



## The Course

The OCR GCSE Computer Science course offers an engaging and practical learning experience that fosters creativity and problem-solving skills. It provides a platform for developing a thorough understanding and practical application of key computer science concepts. Through the course, students will analyse problems from a computational perspective and devise innovative solutions by designing, writing, testing, and evaluating programs.

Designed to provide students with a comprehensive grasp of computer technology, this course enables them to explore its inner workings in depth. It is a highly creative subject that sparks invention and excitement. By emphasising computational thinking, the Computer Science qualification cultivates problem-solving skills and the ability to design efficient systems. These skills not only lay a strong foundation for further studies in Computer Science at A Level and beyond, but also serve as valuable groundwork for various other subjects that require computational thinking and analytical abilities.

## Exams and Assessment

Exams	Content
Paper 1	<b>Computer Systems - written exam (1 hour 30 minutes 50% of the total GCSE)</b> This unit is designed to cover the physical elements of Computer Science and the associated theory, and includes the following topics; systems architecture, memory and storage, computer networks, connections and protocols, network security, systems software and the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology.
Paper 2	<b>Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming written exam (1 hour 30 minutes 50% of the total GCSE)</b> This unit is focused on the core theory of computer science and the application of computer science principles and includes the following topics; algorithms, programming fundamentals, producing robust programs, Boolean logic and programming languages and integrated development environments.
Practical Assessment	Students will have the valuable opportunity to engage in programming tasks as part of their coursework. Throughout their studies, they will be able to apply the knowledge and skills gained to participate in practical programming exercises. This hands-on experience will allow students to draw upon the relevant content covered in both components and further enhance their programming abilities.

## Opportunities

After completing a GCSE in Computer Science, there are several options available to students who wish to continue their studies in this field.

A-level Computer Science delves deeper into programming languages, software engineering, and computer architecture, preparing students for higher education in the field of computer science or related subjects.

Alternatively, students can opt to study vocational qualifications in Computing, such as BTEC Level 3 qualifications or apprenticeships, which provide practical, hands-on training in specific areas of computing, such as software development, networking, or cybersecurity.



# Dance

## Exam Board: AQA

### Why choose this course?

The AQA GCSE Dance specification gives pupils an exciting and diverse insight into the world of Dance. The course develops pupil's practical skills as a performer and choreographer as well as giving an insight into the theoretical and technical aspects of Dance performance and choreography.

AQA GCSE Dance provides a route into A Level Dance, Performing Arts or PE as well as other vocational or professional training opportunities. The skills developed through the GCSE Dance course are favourable for courses and vocations that require collaborative, creative and presenting skills as part of the common assessment or working practises.



### The Course

The AQA GCSE Dance course develops a dancer's skills through the three strands of performance, choreography and Dance appreciation.

**Performance** – Pupils develop their technical Dance and performance skills through the performance of a set solo and a duet or trio performance.

**Choreography** – Pupils will gain a practical experience of the complete choreographic process including; generating, developing and refining movement material to create a finalised piece of choreography.

**Dance appreciation** – Pupils will develop an understanding of the theoretical side of Dance through practical and written exploration of a set anthology of six professional Dance works. These Dance works have been chosen by AQA as they cover a wide range of genres and inclusive styles. Alongside the study of the set anthology, pupils will also learn to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate their own work.

### Exams and Assessment

The AQA GCSE Dance course is split into two components:

Exams	Content
Component 1	<b>Performance and Choreography – 60% of GCSE, 80 marks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Performance – Set Phrases through a Solo performance (approx 1 minute) 15 marks</li><li>• Performance – Duet/Trio performance (3 ½ minutes in length) 25 marks</li><li>• Choreography – Solo or Group Choreography – Solo (2-2 ½ minutes), Group (3-3 ½ minutes) 40 marks</li></ul>
Component 2	<b>Dance Appreciation – 40% of GCSE, 80 marks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes covering knowledge of own practice in performance and choreography and the GCSE Dance Anthology</li></ul>

### Opportunities

Pupils taking this course will participate in a variety of workshops that develop their Dance technique and choreographic skills. There will be opportunities to watch professional Dance performances locally and in London and participate in professional master classes. Pupils taking this course will be expected to participate in school performances, showcases and community dance events to develop their performance skills.

# Drama

## Exam Board: Edexcel

### Why choose this course?

There are many personal, life and career enhancing skills to be gained through studying Drama, including creativity and imagination, co-operation, working to and meeting tight deadlines, communication and presentation skills, and an analytical approach. If you have a passion for Drama and theatre, and an interest in how ideas are communicated through performance, then this is the course for you.



## The Course

Designed to engage pupils through encouraging creativity, this course focuses on practical work which reflects twenty-first century theatre practice. You will look at developing skills that will support progression to further study of Drama and a wide range of other subjects. Drama GCSE requires candidates to show skills in devising, performance, evaluation and analysis.

## Exams and Assessment

There are three components to the two-year course:

Exams	Content
Devising (40%)	Devising a piece of drama from a given stimulus, analysing and evaluating the process by way of a portfolio (30%). Technical acting or design skills are assessed through public performance (10%). This is internally assessed and externally moderated.
Performance from a text (20%)	Performing and/or designing for performance of two key extracts from a given text. This is assessed by a visiting examiner. Monologues, duologues and/or group pieces (three to six participants) are selected from the same play.
Theatre Makers In Practice (40%)	Understanding and interpretation of set performance text through practical and theoretical exploration. This is a written exam which is made up of two sections: <b>Section A</b> has six questions requiring both short and extended answers about a section of the set text (30%). <b>Section B</b> requires a response to a live theatre performance the pupils will have seen (10%).

## Opportunities

Enrichment opportunities such as productions and showcase evenings, the Shakespeare Schools Festival and National Theatre Connections will enhance and support pupils in their development of skills and understanding. As well as enjoying school trips to the theatre and watching professional performances, pupils are encouraged to take up opportunities to see and be involved in live theatre performance in their own time.

Seeing as many plays as possible, both locally and nationally, increases their understanding and appreciation of dramatic production and twenty-first century theatre practice.



# Food Preparation & Nutrition

**Exam Board: AQA**

## Why choose this course?

This subject is a must for anyone who wants to develop their practical skills and develop a further understanding of nutrition and food science. You will be challenged to think independently, analyse and experiment.



## The Course

GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills. It ensures students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition. It supports and links well with Science subjects in addition to the knowledge and practical skills acquired being important life skills.

Food preparation skills are integrated into 5 five sections:

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

The range of food and ingredients studied reflect the recommended guidelines for a healthy diet. The majority of the course is delivered through preparation and making activities.

## Exams and Assessment

Paper	Written Examination: 1 hour 45 mins. 50% of GCSE - 100 marks Multiple choice questions (20 marks). Five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks). The written paper examines students' theoretical knowledge of food and nutrition.
Non-exam assessment (NEA)	50% of GCSE This consists of one food investigation report and one food preparation assessment; Food Investigation (30 marks). Students write a report on their understanding of the scientific principles that underpin the preparation and cooking of food. Food Preparation Assessment (70 marks). Students plan, prepare, cook and present a 3 course menu within 3 hours.

## Opportunities

Progression routes to careers and employments include: Food Technologist, Food Scientist, Chef, Product Developer, Consumer Research Analyst, Agricultural Engineer, Nutritionist and Dietician.

# French

## Exam Board: Edexcel

### Why choose this course?

French is a global language and spoken in many countries around the world either as a first or second language. Studying French will enable students to develop their language skills to their full potential and equip them with the skills to communicate in a variety of different situations when visiting a French speaking country. This course also offers the opportunity to explore and expand students knowledge of the well-known cultural and historical traditions of France and will help them learn other Latin-based languages, such as Spanish or Italian.



## The Course

French GCSE comprises several themes which are relevant to students' current and future needs. These are:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

Students will be expected to develop their skills in the four key strands of:

Listening: Understand and respond to spoken language.

Speaking: Communicate and interact in speech.

Reading: Understand and respond to written language.

Writing: Communicate using different written forms.

Underpinning competence across the core language skills is a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of GCSE grammar and vocabulary.

## Exams and Assessment

GCSE French is assessed using either Foundation tier (grades 1-5) or Higher tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Exams	Content
Listening	Written exam 35 minutes (Foundation), 45 minutes (Higher). 25% of GCSE
Speaking	Oral exam on a role play, photo card and general conversation 7-9 minutes (Foundation) + preparation 10-12 minutes (Higher) + preparation. 25% of GCSE
Reading	Written exam 45 minutes (Foundation) 60 minutes (Higher) questions in English, French and a translation from French to English. 25% of GCSE
Writing	Written exam 60 minutes (Foundation) 75 minutes (Higher) Structured and open-ended writing tasks and translation from English to French. 25% of GCSE

## Opportunities

Taking GCSE French can lead to more advanced study of the French language, history and literature through a range of A level courses. Career opportunities using languages include Teaching, Interpreting, Tourism and Hospitality, Pharmaceuticals, Fashion, the Foreign Service and working for international organisations and relief organisations, such as the well-known Médecins Sans Frontières. Fluent French will open many doors and opportunities for future career development.



# Geography

**Exam Board: AQA**

## Why choose this course?

Geography gives students the opportunity to explore and make sense of our ever-changing and complex world via the classroom. It gives them the opportunity to develop their curiosity, wonder and concern for the world by learning about both the physical and human environment.

Whatever their passion for the world students will develop sought-after transferable skills for success in their future education and workplace. They will be given distinctive insights into how today's world was shaped, understand the challenges we face in the future and explore how these can be managed in more sustainable ways.



## The Course

Geography covers a wide range of contemporary topics under the themes of human and physical geographical concepts. This course covers three main aspects:

- **Living with the physical environment:** looks at the challenge of natural hazards including tectonic and weather hazards as well as climate change. Our living world investigates ecosystems including tropical rainforests and deserts. Physical landscapes of the UK focuses on coastal and river landscapes.
- **Challenges in the human environment:** covers urban issues and challenges including global patterns of urban change, urban growth in emerging economies, urban change in UK cities and how we can develop sustainable urban areas. The changing economic world looks into the development gap, rapid economic development in Nigeria and how the UK economy continues to change. The challenge of resource management investigates food, water and energy resources.
- **Geographical applications and geographical skills:** alongside the subject, numerous skills are developed including recognising different sides in debates and making decision based on a sound argument; report writing and data presentation; how to use a wide range of maps and photographs, as well as developing numerical and statistical skills. A geographical issue is investigated using a pre-release resources booklet, as well as two days of fieldwork undertaken developing transferable skills in research, data collection, analysis and evaluation.

## Exams and Assessment

Exams	Content
Paper 1	Living with the physical environment 35% of GCSE
Paper 2	Challenges in the human environment 35% of GCSE
Paper 3	Geographical applications and skills including an issue evaluation and fieldwork 30% of GCSE

## Opportunities

Geography is an extremely versatile subject which opens doors to numerous career opportunities. These range from working as an Expedition Leader or Travel Writer to Consultancy or Project Management to Architecture, Computer Animation, Medicine, International Aid/Development, Accountancy, Foreign Diplomat, Aviation, Film and Television, Conservation and Nature, Cultural Arts, Digital Marketing, Recruitment, Surveying, Urban Planning, Sustainable Development, Finance and Business, GIS, Military, Aerospace Engineering; Law or Education.

# History

**Exam Board: Cambridge IGCSE**

## Why choose this course?

GCSE History enables students to extend their knowledge and understanding of key events, periods and of the wide diversity of human experience in the 19th and 20th centuries. They will develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers as they ask questions about the past, investigate issues critically and make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context. The skills they acquire will support their progression to further study of History and a wide range of other subjects.



## The Course

Cambridge IGCSE History offers students the opportunity to study world history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Learners explore history from a diversity of perspectives, including social, economical, cultural and political.

We will cover Option B which looks at History in the twentieth century: specifically international relations since 1919. The Section A focuses on the following key questions:

- Was the Treaty of Versailles fair?
- To what extent was the League of Nations a success?
- How far was Hitler's foreign policy to blame for the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939?
- Who was to blame for the Cold War?
- How effectively did the United States contain the spread of communism?

In addition, all candidates must also study Germany 1918-45 in depth. This will examine the following 3 topics:

- Was the Weimar Republic doomed from the start?
- Why was Hitler able to dominate Germany by 1934?
- What was life like in Nazi Germany, 1933-45?

## Exams and Assessment

Exams	Content
Paper 1 - 40%	Candidates answer two questions from Section A (Core content) and one question from Section B (Depth studies).
Paper 2 - 30%	Candidates answer one question on one prescribed topic taken from Section A (Core content). Candidates are presented with a range of source materials relating to each prescribed topic.
Component 3 (Coursework) 30%	Candidates produce one piece of extended (2000 words) writing based on their depth study (Germany 1918-45).

## Opportunities

Studying History at GCSE will develop and extend students' knowledge of the world they live in. Throughout the course, they will also develop key skills such as critical enquiry, the ability to assess the validity and reliability of evidence and how to effectively organise and communicate your ideas both orally and in writing. All of these are hugely valuable and transferable skills post-16, at university and in the workplace and can lead to rewarding careers in a diverse range of sectors.



# Music

## Exam Board: Edexcel

### Why choose this course?

“Music has the power of producing a certain effect on the moral character of the soul, and if it has the power to do this, it is clear that the young must be directed to music and must be educated in it.” Aristotle



## The Course

The Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Music course will broaden pupils' musical horizons and develop their understanding of how music is created. The listening and appraising part of the course is based on four specific areas of study designed to give the students a broad spectrum of styles, genres and cultures. Pupils will also learn to compose, and further their skills as solo and ensemble performers on their specific instrument or voice.

Pupils studying GCSE Music are expected to perform in all applicable choirs and ensembles. Alongside the GCSE Music qualification, candidates will be taught to pass the Grade 5 ABRSM Music Theory exam (although ideally passed before the GCSE course commences). This course is only suitable for those Grade 3 or above on their voice/instrument.

## Exams and Assessment

Exams	Content
Component 1 (30%)	<b>Performing:</b> Candidates are asked to record one Solo performance and one Ensemble performance on their chosen instrument or voice.
Component 2 (30%)	<b>Composing:</b> Candidates will compose two compositions of at least 3 minutes in combined duration. One composition is set to a brief by the exam board ( in September of Year 11) and one composition is the candidates own free-choice.
Component 3 (40%)	<b>Listening and Appraising Exam:</b> Candidates will answer a variety of questions on set works within Areas of Study. Candidates will also complete a short musical dictation, as well as a longer essay question comparing an unfamiliar piece of music with one of the familiar set works.

## Opportunities

GCSE Music lays suitable foundations for further study onto A-Level Music, or Music Technology (where the requirement is Grade 5/6 standard and above). It could also open doors to Music College/Conservatoire, or even combined with Drama/Dance to enter the world of Performing Arts.

# Physical Education

**Exam Board: AQA**

## Why choose this course?

Students studying Physical Education with us will find the GCSE course both stimulating and engaging. Since 40% of the subject is practical based, it provides the perfect opportunity for pupils to gain nearly half of the marks towards the GCSE, away from the classroom setting. GCSE Physical Education is a challenging GCSE that enables pupils to apply the theoretical framework to their practical activities and sport.



## The Course

- **Applied anatomy and physiology**- the understanding of the key body systems and how they impact on health, fitness and performance in physical activity and sport.
- **Movement analysis** - the basic principles of movement and their effect on performance in physical activity and sport.
- **Physical training** - understanding of the principles of training and different training methods in order to plan, carry out, monitor and evaluate personal exercise and training programmes.
- **Use of data** - understanding of data analysis in relation to key areas of physical activity and sport.
- **Sports psychology** - understanding of the psychological factors that can affect performers in physical activity and sport.
- **Socio-cultural influences** - understanding of the socio-cultural factors that impact on physical activity and sport, and the impact of sport on society.
- **Health, fitness and wellbeing** - knowledge and understanding of the benefits of participating in physical activity and sport to health, fitness and wellbeing.

## Exams and Assessment

Assessment	Content
Paper 1	The human body and movement in physical activity and sport (30%). What is assessed: Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data. Written Exam 1 hour 15 minutes.
Paper 2	Socio-cultural influences and wellbeing in physical activity and sport (30%). What is assessed: Sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and wellbeing, use of data. Written Exam 1 hour 15 minutes.
Non-exam assessment:	Practical performance in physical activity and sport (40%). What is assessed: one team activity, one individual activity and either another team or individual. In addition, performance analysis is worth 10% of the qualification, assessed through coursework.

## Opportunities

A level and Degree options - Sports Management - Sport Analytics - Sport Marketing - Sport and Exercise Science - Physiotherapy - Sports coaching - Sports Administration and Governance.

Careers - Sports Management - Strength and Conditioning Coach - Physiotherapist - Sport Psychologist - Sports Agent - Physical Education Teacher - Sports Marketing - Statistician - Sports Physician - Sports Journalism.



# Psychology

**Exam Board: AQA**

## Why choose this course?

Psychologists study everything about people – and what could be more interesting than people?

Psychologists want to explain why people (and animals) behave as they do. They are always on the lookout for interesting things about what people do. Just look in any newspaper, or Instagram page – they are full of interesting stories about people's behaviour.

Psychology is the science of behaviour and experience. And it is a science because it is based on evidence. Psychologists always look at how much evidence we have for a certain behaviour, and how good the evidence is.



## The Course

The AQA GCSE Psychology course is divided into two main areas; cognition and behaviour, and social context and behaviour. Within these units we will cover the following content:

Cognition and behaviour:

- Human memory – how memories are stored and how these memories look in the brain. The accuracy of our memories, and the factors which cause us to forget.
- Human perception – how our senses process information and send message to the brain.
- Human development – the development of the brain and the different stages of child development.
- Research methods – using scientific and mathematical methods to design experiments.

Social context and behaviour:

- Social Influence – looking at obedience and conformity in social groups.
- Language, thought and communication.
- The structure of the brain and neuropsychology. The nervous system.
- Psychological problems – mental health problems with a focus on depression and addiction problems.

## Exams and Assessment

Assessment	Content
Paper 1	1 hour 45 minute paper, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE. Cognition and Behaviour
Paper 2	1 hour 45 minute paper, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE – Social Context and Behaviour

## Opportunities

Students who study Psychology at GCSE will have a good foundation to build on for A level Psychology, and a skill base which is transferable to science based subjects.

There are three main career paths for students who study psychology into higher education; Educational Psychology – working with children and young people to help their learning and development. Criminal/ forensic Psychology – working with the police and prison services to profile criminals and to rehabilitate offenders. Clinical Psychology – working with people with mental health difficulties, or mental illnesses.

# Spanish

**Exam Board: Edexcel**

## Why choose this course?

Spanish is a global language spoken in more than 20 countries worldwide including the USA where more people actually speak Spanish than in Spain! Studying Spanish will give you the language skills and confidence to communicate within these countries. This course also offers you the opportunity to explore and expand your knowledge of the rich cultural and historical heritage of both Spain and Latin American countries. As a Latin-based language, a knowledge of Spanish will also be of help in further study of other 'Romance' languages.



## The Course

Spanish GCSE comprises several themes which are relevant to students' current and future needs. These are:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

Students will be expected to develop their skills in the four key strands of:

- Listening: Understand and respond to spoken language.
- Speaking: Communicate and interact in speech.

Reading: Understand and respond to written language.

Writing: Communicate using different written forms.

Underpinning competence across the core language skills is a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of GCSE grammar and vocabulary.

## Exams and Assessment

GCSE Spanish is assessed using either Foundation tier (grades 1-5) or Higher tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Assessment	Content
Listening	Written exam 35 minutes (Foundation), 45 minutes (Higher). 25% of GCSE
Speaking	Oral exam on a role play, photo card and general conversation 7-9 minutes (Foundation) + preparation 10-12 minutes (Higher) + preparation 25% of GCSE
Reading	Written exam 45 minutes (Foundation) 60 minutes (Higher) questions in English, Spanish and a translation from Spanish to English. 25% of GCSE
Writing	Written exam 60 minutes (Foundation) 75 minutes (Higher) Structured and open-ended writing tasks and translation from English to Spanish. 25% of GCSE

## Opportunities

Studying GCSE Spanish will provide students with excellent opportunities for more advanced study of the Spanish language, history and literature through a range of A level courses and later at university including a year abroad in a Spanish speaking country. Career opportunities using languages include Teaching, Interpreting, Tourism and Hospitality, as well as business opportunities in the growing economy of Spain and the emerging markets of South America. Fluent Spanish will be a valuable asset for future career development.

# Statistics

**Exam Board: AQA**

## Why choose this course?

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



## The Course

Topics are clearly and logically structured and include:

- Understanding the importance of careful planning, a clear strategy for collecting, recording and processing data in order to address an identified question or hypothesis.
- Generating data visualisation and understanding the maths involved.

## Exams and Assessment

Assessment	Content
GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). Students must take two question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.	There are 2 papers to tackle. Each paper is a mix of multiple choice, short answer and a Statistical Enquiry Cycle (SEC) question. They are 1 hour 45 minutes long each and assessed externally.

## Opportunities

Statistics complements subjects such as GCSE Sciences and Geography, and opens the door to a variety of careers – from weather forecasting to the biological sciences.



# HPQ

**Exam Board: AQA**

## **Why choose this course?**

The Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) is an exciting opportunity to develop the skills required for an independent enquiry. It will allow you to explore something that you are passionate about in greater depth and gain invaluable skills, particularly in writing essays and delivering speeches and presentations.

As a Level 2 award, the qualification is equivalent to half a GCSE and will enhance work in other areas of the curriculum, as well as preparing you for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) at Sixth Form or college.



## **The Course**

The Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) is an exciting opportunity to develop the skills required for an independent enquiry. This qualification allows pupils to investigate a topic of their choice, record their research, deliver a presentation and produce a written report or artefact. Taught elements will develop skills to help pupils complete the project successfully. These include research skills, critical analysis and project management.

Completing an HPQ is a commitment for the whole academic year and requires regular attendance at the HPQ enrichment sessions.

## **Exams and Assessment**

The nature of the qualification requires students to work independently outside the taught sessions as well as also meeting with their assigned supervisor during the spring and summer terms. Their final piece of work may be a report, presentation, film or artefact.

## **Opportunities**

Universities are increasingly positive about the benefits of studying an EPQ and some are adjusting the offers they make to those applying for higher education, so the HPQ is excellent preparation for studying the EPQ.

# Scholarships

For Year 7 and Year 9 entrants into our school, we offer scholarships to the top performing candidates who demonstrate outstanding ability in Academia, Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Science & Technology or Sport.

Once awarded, Year 7 and Year 9 scholarships are carried forward until the end of Year 11. It is possible to be awarded a scholarship on entry into Year 7 and then receive a further award at Year 9.

All pupils entering Year 7 and Year 9 may apply for one or more of the following Scholarships:

- Art
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- Science & Technology
- Sport

In addition, pupils may be awarded an Academic Scholarship by recommendation (if already at FSM) or through strong performance in our admissions assessments (for those applying to join the school).

Further details on the selection process, benefits and fee awards can be found in our accompanying Scholarship Booklet.

Scan the QR code to  
download our  
scholarship booklet





# Good to Know



We appreciate that finding the right school for your child also means that it needs to work for your busy family. This is why we offer all the families of our Senior School pupils the following promises:

## Wraparound Care

Is available for all FSM pupils (of all ages) from 7.30am to 6pm every day of term at no additional cost and with no need for advance notice.

## After School Activities

We offer a fantastic range of activities (both on and off site) between the end of Period 7 and 5.30pm. The programme of activities changes termly and the current provision can be found on our website.

## Bus Routes

As our school grows we continue to add more bus routes across Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire. Our current routes can be seen on our website and possible additions can be discussed with the Registrar.

## Fees

Current fees can be found on our website.





# Interested? These are your next steps...

We understand what a big decision it is for you to choose a school for your son or daughter. At Forres Sandle Manor we make the application process as simple as possible.

## **Book a private tour:**

We always recommend a private one-to-one tour with our Head. This allows us to get to know you and your child's future aspirations. During the tour, we can introduce you to teachers and the Departmental Heads of the subjects they are interested in studying.

**For further information about Forres Sandle Manor and to arrange your private tour, please contact our Registrar.**



T: 01425 653181



E: [admissions@fsmschool.com](mailto:admissions@fsmschool.com)



W: [fsmschool.com](http://fsmschool.com)

**Stay up-to-date with what is going on at Forres Sandle Manor and follow us on:**



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