



MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL
BRACKLEY

Founded 1548

YEAR 9 INFORMATION BOOKLET
2019/2020

MOTIVATION COMMITMENT SUCCESS





Founded 1548

Magdalen College School

Motivation Commitment Success

Headteacher: Mr I H Colling

Waynflete Avenue
Brackley NN13 6FB
Tel: 01280 846300
Fax: 01280 704953

E-mail: generalenquiries@magdalen.northants.sch.uk Web: www.magdalen.northants.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this finds you and your family well rested after the summer break. The Year 9 Tutors, Mrs Evans and I would like to welcome you to Year 9.

Year 8 proved to be a successful year with the students making good progress not only in lessons but also in their commitment to their personal development through the Magdalen Diploma. The Diploma upholds the high standards and expectations that we have of our students by focusing them on the skills they will need to be successful in school as well as in employment in the future. The Bronze award requires students to be reliable, good participators and team workers and students have been working hard to successfully demonstrate that they are reaching the criteria for each of these strands. We look forward to seeing them working towards these strands this academic year by ensuring they have good attendance, excellent behaviour, participation in extra curricula activities and a commitment to their work so that more students can 'graduate' to the Silver level of the Diploma and beyond.

This year is a very important year for the students as they begin their GCSE's. It is vitally important that they make good impressions to their new teachers this year and work as hard as they can. There's been lots of positive feedback from the subject teachers already which has been brilliant to hear.

Like last year, the Parent Communication Evening on 26th March will be with subject staff. If staff have any concerns about your child's progress you will be contacted by either the subject teacher, the form tutor or myself. If you have concerns though please do not hesitate to contact the school. This booklet gives you information about the subjects your child will be studying in Year 9 including details about assessments and homework. Your child's homework timetable can be found in your child's planner and the library is open from 8am every day and after school until 4pm Monday to Thursday for students to use the resources or to do homework. There is also a separate homework club on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after school in the Inclusion Faculty.

If you do have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to contact me at school, either by phone or e mail: louise.goyder@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Miss E Tye
Leader of Learning Year 9



School Sports Coordinator



South
West
Area
Northants
Secondary
Cluster



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WEBSITE LINKS

Art /Textiles / Photography - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206>

Business: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.html>

Computing: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computer-science-j276-from-2016/>

Information Technology: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/ict-level-1-2-j800-j810-j820/>

Design & Technology – <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

Drama – <http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre/gcse/>

English - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

English Literature: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

Food Preparation and Technology - <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-food-preparation-and-nutrition-j309-from-2016/>

Geography - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>

French <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658>

German <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/german-8668>

History - <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

Maths <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300>

Music: <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music/gcse/>

Physical Education - <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/physical-education-2016.html>

RE <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>

Science <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html>

Sociology <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192>

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YEAR 9

Date	Event
Wednesday 4 th September	1 st day of term
Thursday 12 th September	Year 9 Information Evening
Wednesday 24 th October	School Photos
Thursday 25 th October	School Photos
Monday 30 th September	Extended Learning Day 1
Saturday 26 th October to Sunday 3 rd November	HALF TERM
Thursday 21 st November	Extended Learning Day 2
Thursday 5 th December	Christmas Concert
Friday 29 th November	Advent Fayre 6pm – 8pm
Wednesday 18 th December	Carol Service 7.30pm
Friday 20 th December 1.30pm – Sunday 5 th January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Saturday 15 th February – Sunday 23 rd February	HALF TERM
Friday 28 th February	Extended Learning Day 3
Thursday 26 th March	Year 9 Parents evening 4pm - 7.30pm
Saturday 4 th April to Sunday 19 th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Friday 8 th May	Bank Holiday
Saturday 23 rd May – Sunday 31 st May	HALF TERM
Wednesday 8 th July to Friday 10 th July	Extended Learning Days
Tuesday 14 th July	Sports Day
Thursday 16 th July	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 17 th July	Last Day of term

HOMEWORK

Please refer to the Parent & Carer's Guide to Homework sent out at the start of term, also available on the school website, for all details regarding homework

ENGLISH

Course content

Students will continue to develop their writing, reading and oracy skills during their English studies. They will continue to study a wide variety of texts, completing a number of written and oral tasks based on the content, subject matter and related themes. Writing practice will include producing texts for a variety of audiences and purposes, e.g. writing to persuade, inform or advise. Towards the end of the year, students will begin their study of some of the set poems from the AQA GCSE Poetry Anthology.

Autumn Term: Novel Study, Shakespeare Play.

Spring Term: Language/Communication Study, Novel Study, Speaking and Listening task.

Summer Term: Extracts from 'The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen', GCSE Poetry.

Assessment structure

The assessment of students takes the form of baseline, interim and summative assessments provided by our exam board, AQA. These are accompanied by a variety of in class controlled assessments, summative tasks and on-going teacher assessments based on the students' classroom performance.

Homework

Homework will be set as per school policy and will include a variety of tasks from writing preparation, revision for tests and completing reading tasks.

Resources to support learning

There is a wide range of suitable KS3 and 4 revision guides and workbooks produced by most of the major educational publishers. They are available to purchase both on-line and in bookshops. Students should also be encouraged to read widely for pleasure - a suggested reading list will be provided for students.

Web-sites

www.bbc.bitesize.co.uk

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress in English, please use the normal school numbers or email your child's teacher or Dr Maria Kasandrinou (Head of English Faculty) on dr.k@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

MATHEMATICS

Course content

Students entering Year 9 will continue with a programme of study in preparation for the new GCSE in mathematics. The work they will encounter builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding they developed in earlier years. Problem solving and investigative skills form an integral part of the course. Topics will be organised into six main subject areas: Number; Algebra; Ratio, proportion and rates of change; Geometry and measures; Probability; Statistics.

Assessment structure

Internal assessments

Students will take a short internal assessment towards the end of each 3-4 week module of work in order to check on their learning and to identify any areas for intervention. There will be a longer half-yearly assessment a few weeks after Christmas which will be synoptic in nature, testing both recent work and work covered earlier in the year. Results will be used to ensure that pupils are making sufficient progress. There will be an end of Y9 examination in June as part of the whole school examination programme.

External GCSE examination

This is a linear course and assessment consists of three written exam papers of equal weighting, which will be taken at the end of Y11 in May/June.

The new qualification will be graded from 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest grade

There are two tiers of entry in Mathematics.

Foundation tier covers grades 1 – 5.

Higher tier covers grades 4 - 9.

Final decisions about tiers of entry for students in all sets will be taken after the December mock examinations in Y11.

Homework

Tasks will be varied and could include:

- Problem solving tasks in which the student will be required to use their initiative in selecting and carrying out the correct procedures to achieve a solution.
- Consolidation exercises covering work undertaken in recent lessons.
- Revision tasks reviewing work undertaken earlier in the course.
- On-line exercises using the MyMaths web-site.
- Completion of practice exam questions.

In addition we would expect students to set aside extra revision time when preparing for internal assessments and to take the initiative in undertaking extra practice in areas they are finding difficult.

Resources to support learning

Essential - should be brought to every lesson (can all be purchased from the equipment store in the library)

Black pen; green pen; pencil; ruler; eraser; pencil sharpener; angle measurer/ protractor; pair of compasses; scientific calculator

Revision materials

The best way to revise maths is by practicing answering questions – passive reading of a text-book or revision guide is often of limited value, although books and guides can be useful for reference and as sources of practice questions.

The web-site www.mymaths.co.uk provides revision lessons and exercises at a range of different levels. Your son/daughter should know how to log on to this site but if unsure should check the details with his/her teacher. The class teacher will also be able to provide guidance about which Booster packs on the site are most appropriate.

The following web-site is also useful as it provides short booklets of past exam questions and worked solutions together with teaching videos organised by topic. Questions can be printed off and used by students for consolidation and practice. GCSE maths take away revision on www.mrbartonmaths.com

Revision Guides and Workbooks

There is a wide range of suitable KS4 revision guides and workbooks produced by most of the major educational publishers. They are available to purchase both on-line and in bookshops.

The guides and exam practice workbooks provided by the CGP group are useful and can be purchased from the equipment store in the school library.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email your child's teacher or Miss Charlie Brown, KS4 co-ordinator, charlotte.brown@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

SCIENCE – COMBINED SCIENCE GCSE

Course Content

This comprises three subject areas (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) which are taught in subject blocks between now and summer 2021. Students have two science teachers and nine lessons total per fortnight.

Assessment Structure

The exam board is Edexcel and the new qualification graded 1 to 9 (9 highest) is specification 1SC0. There are six one hour and ten minute written papers (two per subject area). Each exam is 60 marks spread over six questions and will contain multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. Unlike previous years, the Exam Board no longer allows students to take re-sits. The exams are below:

Biology	Paper 1 and Paper 2	Both one hour and ten minutes
Chemistry	Paper 1 and Paper 2	Both one hour and ten minutes
Physics	Paper 1 and Paper 2	Both one hour and ten minutes

There are two tiers of entry in Science. Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). Final decisions about tiers of entry for students in all sets will be taken in Year 11. Throughout the course there are internal exams every six or so weeks to help students learn, recall and apply their knowledge and to measure student progress. There will also exams at the start and end of Year 10 covering everything studied and mock exams will be completed in Year 11.

Controlled Assessment

There is no longer a controlled assessment (coursework) for GCSE Sciences. Instead all students will complete 12 Core practicals over the two years (4 per subject). There is no mark for these but students are required to complete these and demonstrate sufficient skill. Their knowledge of these will be tested in the final exams.

Homework

Students should do 90 minutes study at home per fortnight. Homework should be once or twice per fortnight (45 or 25 minutes) per teacher. For students wishing to achieve or exceed their target, they should do additional revision on top of this.

Resources to Support Learning (including equipment and kit)

Students will be given an exercise book at the start of the year. It is essential that they bring a pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and calculator to every lesson to allow them to make appropriate progress during lessons.

The specification (1SC0) and exam papers can be downloaded from this website:
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html>.

The following book published by Pearson accompanies this course and is used in class: Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Combined Science: Student Book, Mark Levesley (ISBN 978-1-292-12019-5).

There are also some resources available on MOODLE - the school VLE. If you cannot access this from home, please ask your son/daughter to tell their class teacher who will make alternate arrangements.

Revision

To succeed in the course students need to be able to recall and apply a lot of knowledge. Therefore it is important that they revise effectively especially for tests. This should involve identifying keywords and information using their exercise books, checklists of the content, revision guide or BBC Bitesize etc. Students then need to learn and practice recalling this information by making notes, mindmaps, flashcards etc. Finally students need to practice applying the knowledge by answering questions particularly exam

questions such as those in the Revision Guide and on SAM Learning which will make it more familiar in the final exams.

The BBC Bitesize website is one of the best starting places to consolidate learning at home. It covers the specific Edexcel Specification so it is important that students navigate to this section or follows this link: <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zqkww6f>. I am obliged to inform you that I wrote the BBC Bitesize website for Biology. Neither I nor any other member of the school will benefit from our or other students using this site. SAM Learning (www.samlearning.com) also has Edexcel Specific materials and students should have their login details but please ask them to speak to their teacher if they do not.

Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Combined Science Revision guide, N Saunders & P Lowrie for Foundation and Higher tier are available from the library at a reduced rate (currently £4.08).

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us about any of the above information or any aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Dr Nick Dixon (Head of Science Faculty) on nick.dixon@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

SCIENCE - TRIPLE SCIENCE GCSE

Course Content

This comprises three subject areas (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) which are taught in subject blocks between now and summer 2021. Students have specialist science teachers for each subject and 14 lessons total per fortnight.

Assessment Structure

The exam board is Edexcel and the new qualification graded 1 to 9 (9 highest) are specifications:

Biology	1BI0
Chemistry	1CH0
Physics	1PH0

There are six one hour and 45 minute written papers (two per subject area). Each exam is 100 marks spread over ten questions and will contain multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. Unlike previous years, the Exam Board no longer allows students to take re-sits. The exams are below:

Biology	Paper 1 and Paper 2	Both one hour and 45 minutes
Chemistry	Paper 1 and Paper 2	Both one hour and 45 minutes
Physics	Paper 1 and Paper 2	Both one hour and 45 minutes

There are two tiers of entry in Science. Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). Final decisions about tiers of entry for students in all sets will be taken in Year 11. Throughout the course there are internal exams every six or so weeks to help students learn, recall and apply their knowledge and to measure student progress. There will also exams at the start and end of Year 10 covering everything studied previously and mock exams will be completed in Year 11.

Controlled Assessment

There is no longer a controlled assessment (coursework) for GCSE Sciences. Instead all students will complete 18 Core practicals over the two years (6 per subject). There is no mark for these but students are required to complete these and demonstrate sufficient skill. Their knowledge of these will be tested in the final exams.

Homework

Students should do 2.5 hours study at home per fortnight. Homework may be once or twice per fortnight (50 or 25 minutes) per teacher. For students wishing to achieve or exceed their target, they should do additional revision on top of this.

Resources to Support Learning (including equipment and kit)

Students will be given an exercise book at the start of the year. It is essential that they bring a pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and calculator to every lesson to allow them to make appropriate progress during lessons.

The specification (1BI0, 1CH0 & 1PH0) and exam papers can be downloaded from this website:
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html>.

The following book published by Pearson accompanies this course and is used in class:

Biology	Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Biology: Student Book, M Levesley & co. (ISBN 978-1-292-12010-1)
Chemistry	Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Chemistry: Student Book, M Levesley & co (ISBN 978-1-292-12021-8)
Physics	Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Physics: Student Book M Levesley & co (ISBN 978-1-292-12022-5)

There are also some resources available on MOODLE - the school VLE. If you cannot access this from home, please ask your son/daughter to tell their class teacher who will make alternate arrangements.

Revision

To succeed in the course students need to be able to recall and apply a lot of knowledge. Therefore it is important that they revise effectively especially for tests. This should involve identifying keywords and information using their exercise books, checklists of the content, revision guide or BBC Bitesize etc. Students then need to learn and practice recalling this information by making notes, mindmaps, flashcards etc. Finally students need to practice applying the knowledge by answering questions particularly exam questions such as those in the Revision Guide and on SAM Learning which will make it more familiar in the final exams.

The BBC Bitesize website is one of the best starting places to consolidate learning at home. It covers the specific Edexcel Specification so it is important that students navigate to this section or follows this link: <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zqkww6f>. I am obliged to inform you that I wrote the BBC Bitesize website for Biology. Neither I nor any other member of the school will benefit from our or other students using this site. SAM Learning (www.samlearning.com) also has Edexcel Specific materials and students should have their login details but please ask them to speak to their teacher if they do not.

Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Revision guides for each of the subjects, Foundation and Higher tier are available from the library at a reduced rate of (currently £2.45 per subject = £7.35 total).

Biology	P Lowrie & S Kearsey
Chemistry	N Slater
Physics	M O'Neill

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us about any of the above information or any aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Dr Nick Dixon (Head of Science Faculty) on nick.dixon@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

ART – FINE ART, PHOTOGRAPHY, TEXTILES

Course Content

Year 9

Each of the three above course follow the same basic structure of a foundation year covering a wide variety of skills while completing a range of different projects.

Assessment Structure

January to April

Students will be offered a choice of starting points for their final examination. Students will create a portfolio of build-up work (artist research, investigation, experimentation) which is produced over a 10 hour (2 day) exam under controlled conditions. Presentation of the final piece (in the case of the Photography students) is included in the 10 hours.

The exam is assessed as per the coursework under the same Assessment Objectives.

Weighting: Coursework 60% Exam 40%

Contact

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COMPUTING

AQA GCSE Computer Science

This course has been developed collaboratively with teachers, industry and the wider computer science community, making sure that the GCSE has built-in progression to further studies and is recognised as developing the skills that employers value.

Computer technology continues to advance rapidly and the way that technology is consumed has also been changing at a fast pace over recent years. The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and employees. For example, businesses today require an ever-increasing number of technologically-aware individuals. This is even more so in the gaming, mobile and web related industries and this specification has been designed with this in mind.

Course Content

Students will cover topics related to:

- Programming skills including database connectivity and Python
- Computer hardware
- Data representation
- Software development strategies
- Networking
- The wider impact of computer systems in society

Assessment Structure

The qualification is split into two components:

Component 1 – Practical programming - which is examined by controlled assessment and is worth 60% of the final grade. This is completed in Year 11.

Component 2 - Computing fundamentals - which is exam based and is worth 40% of the final grade. The exam is at the end of Year 11.

GCSE Computer Science counts towards the English Baccalaureate science measure, offering students a new option that achieves maximum recognition.

Homework

Each fortnight, 2 homeworks will be set, a directed homework and a research/revision homework.

Directed homework will be given for re-enforcement of concepts covered in class and in preparation for the next lesson. This may comprise of exam style questions, quizzes, pseudocode activities and essay questions.

Programming can only be mastered through practice of actual coding and therefore students will be expected to code as part of their revision/research homework. Students should create an account at <https://www.codecademy.com/learn/python> Both pieces of controlled assessment will take place in Year 11, so putting effort into the research homework is crucial to success.

Resources to Support Learning (including equipment and kit)

Essential: Pen, pencil, eraser and ruler

Web links

AQA website for specification details

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/ict-and-computer-science/gcse/computer-science-4512>

<http://www.afterhoursprogramming.com/tutorial/Python/Overview/>
www.codecademy.com
<http://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/index.htm>
<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsBxDfwURg-vQASN2ZeHwg>

YouTube is also a valuable resource for video tutorials on how to use different software.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Mrs Natalie Tadman, Head of Faculty on natalie.tadman@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

DRAMA

Course Content

The Year 9 students will develop knowledge and understanding of theatre and performance through practical workshops, script reading and research. They will also take part in a theatre trip to experience live professional theatre.

Assessment Structure

There will be written and practical assessments throughout Y9. The students will be working on their practice practical exam and their practice written course work from April.

Due to the nature of the subject planning and preparation will need to be completed at home. Please feel free to offer support and advice to your son/daughter in this process including any ideas regarding creativity! The expectation is that students will complete the work to the best of their abilities at all times.

Homework

There will be homework set each week, some written, some research, planning and rehearsing.

Exam board and Weblinks

Students study the WJEC Drama course for GCSE <http://.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/dram-and-theatre/gcse> .The specification and exemplar material are available to download from here.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us about any of the above information or any aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email address. To email their teacher directly, the address is celia.thomas@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Course Content

Students opting for this GCSE course will have covered some of the relevant skills, knowledge and understanding during their work in years 7 & 8, although to a lower level. During Year 10 they will increase their knowledge and understanding of food as a material (ingredient), nutrition and food production through focussed practical tasks, investigative studies as well as mini assignments. This will allow the students to acquire the abilities and self-discipline required to achieve success in the NEAs as well as the examination. In common with all other GCSEs, all work will be presented for marking at the end of the course in Year 11.

Assessment Structure

Non-examined assessment (NEA)

There are two NEAs, one is worth 15% of final GCSE marks and the other 35%. Both will be completed in Year 11.

Food investigation task: This task is worth 15% of the qualification and assesses the scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

Food preparation task: This task is worth 35% of the qualification and assesses the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.

External GCSE examination

As well as preparation for the NEAs students will be studying for their Knowledge and Understanding exam. In common with all GCSE courses, this requires students to maintain and take responsibility for their textbook and associated notes, to undertake homework as set, and to be proactive in seeking support with any areas of difficulty. The examination will be completed in May/June of year 11 and is worth 50% of final GCSE marks

Homework

A wide variety of homework tasks will be set in order to enhance understanding for the written paper as well as developing skills for the NEAs (research, planning presentations, studying materials, preparing ingredients for practical sessions, completing sensory analysis of practical dishes). Students will generally have at least 48 hours for homework, but must meet their teacher before the next lesson if there are any difficulties. At least one piece of homework will be set each week – some of this will be teacher assessed, other peer assessed and some self-assessed. The type and length of homework will be determined by the topic being studied.

Resources to support learning

Revision Books

All students will be provided with a GCSE Textbook. We strongly recommend that students spend time revising key words and terms as often as possible.

Exam Board and Web Links

Students study the OCR D&T: Food Technology Specification (J302 – Full Course)
<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-food-preparation-and-nutrition-j309-from-2016/>

Past papers and mark schemes are available to download from OCR's website
<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/234807-unit-j309-01-food-preparation-and-nutrition-sample-assessment-material.pdf>

The BBC Bitesize website is another useful website for students to browse
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/>

We also recommend the British Nutrition Foundation Website for up-to-date information.
<http://www.nutrition.org.uk>

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us about any of the above information or any aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Mrs Natalie Tadman, Head of Faculty on natalie.tadman@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

GEOGRAPHY

Course content

The GCSE course comprises three sections. The topics covered are either brand new to the students, and in some topics build on knowledge gained in KS3 Geography. The course is evenly split between Human and Physical Geography and looks at current up to date issues in a global context.

Assessment Structure

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment

Written Paper – 1 hour 30 mins – 88marks – 35%

Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment

Written Paper – 1 hour 30 mins – 88 marks – 35%

Unit 3: Geographical applications

Written paper – 76 marks – 30%. Pre-release resources booklet made available 12 weeks before Paper 3 exam. *Students will also be examined on their understanding of the fieldwork that they will undertake in KS4.*

Homework

Homework will be set each week and is expected to take approximately 1hr per fortnight. In addition we would expect students to set aside extra revision time when preparing for internal assessments and to take the initiative in undertaking extra practice in areas they are finding difficult.

Tasks will be varied and could include:

- Reading tasks
- Consolidation exercises covering work undertaken in recent lessons
- Revision tasks reviewing work undertaken earlier in the course
- Practice exam questions
- In depth case study creation

Resources to support learning

Essential - should be brought to every lesson (can all be purchased from the equipment store in the library)

Black pen; pencil; ruler; eraser; pencil sharpener;

Course Text books – will be provided by the department and are available in the Library. We have a limited number, so cannot be taken away from the Geography area.

Desirable - a ring-binder file and plastic wallets to file notes and hand-outs (exercise books will be provided)

Revision Guides

The Grade 9-1 GCSE Geography AQA Revision Guide (ISBN 978-1782946106) is available to purchase from Amazon.

Fieldwork

There are two **compulsory** fieldtrips students must attend on their course. This is crucial for them to gain the information needed to complete their third exam.

Exam Board and Web Links

Students study the AQA course for GCSE and it is possible to download the specification, past papers and mark schemes from their website - <http://web.aqa.org.uk/>. We are studying the **AQA Geography (8035)** for the Geography GCSE.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email your child's teacher or Miss Katy Lilley (Head of Humanities Faculty) at Katy.lilley@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

HISTORY

Course Content

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 are working towards their History GCSE with Edexcel

Examinations and topics:

Paper Number	Topics	% of GCSE	Time	Question types
1	Crime and Punishment + Whitechapel	30% excluding SPAG	1 hour and 15 minutes	Section A: Question assessing knowledge of Whitechapel plus two-part question based on 2 sources Section B: 3 questions that assess knowledge and understanding
2	Henry VIII and American West	40% excluding SPAG	1 hour and 45 minutes	Section A: 3 questions assessing knowledge and understanding of the American West. Section B: 1 3-part question that assesses their knowledge and understanding of Henry
3	Germany	30% excluding SPAG	1 hour and 20 minutes	Section A: 1 source question and a knowledge question Section B: 1 4-part question based on 2 sources and 2 interpretations

As you can see from the table above we study a varied range of interesting topics. This gives students the chance to find an area that they are really passionate about. There is no longer a controlled assessment element to the course and instead it has moved, in-line with other History examination boards, to being covered entirely in exams.

The exams make use of a range of question types to allow students to try different skills and apply their knowledge in a range of ways.

What next for History?

We look forward to discussing with your son/daughter not only their interest in taking GCSE History but their thoughts about the nature and potential content of the course. Studying history equips you with a range of essential skills such as; skills of reasoning, evaluation and analysis. These are sought after skills and will support applications for employment and further study in a range of fields.

Revision materials

Due to the nature of GCSE History there are many options and combinations of topics, this means it is unlikely that you would find one single revision book covering all of your topics. There are excellent knowledge revision guides that exist for different courses. There are however, a number of good knowledge focused revision books:

One helpful and student friendly revision series is the **My Revision Notes** series and currently this has a book for American West, Crime and Punishment and Germany. We hope one for Henry VIII will follow. An example is: My Revision Notes: Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History: The American West, c1835–c1895 Paperback – 29 Sep 2017 ISBN: 1510403264

- **Revise Edexcel GCSE History B: Schools History Project** ISBN 978 1 292 09713 8 This is good for checking your knowledge about Crime, The American West and Germany
- **CGP GCSE History Schools History Project** ISBN 978 1 84762 281 5 This is good for checking knowledge and short knowledge test questions to build confidence
- **Edexcel GCSE Modern World History** ISBN 978 1 4718 3172 0 This is good for revising Germany and also has a good section about how to structure revision sessions which is useful when setting out.
- **As a subject team we will be collating a booklet of sample questions for use alongside these knowledge based resources.** The sample question booklet will test knowledge as well as building the required skills and experience for success in the exams.

Textbooks used

At the moment we are using Hodder Crime and Punishment Through Time c1000-Present, ISBN 978-1-4718-6172-7 as we progress through the course we will update you about the relevant textbooks and materials that are being used in class.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email your child's teacher or Miss Katy Lilley (Head of Humanities Faculty) at Katy.lilley@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

LIFE SKILLS

In Year 9 the Life skills programme is taught through extended learning days, assemblies and registration time. Building on the work studies in year 7&8, the year 9 PCSE course focuses upon a number of key areas;

- Mental health & coping strategies
- Facts about drugs both legal and illegal, and ways to manage different influences on their behaviours (including smoking, alcohol, vaping, and illegal drugs)
- Sex / STDS / sexual consent / contraception
- Relationships – intimacy
- Bullying
- Radicalisation
- Human rights
- Financial awareness and responsibility

Other topics may be added depending on the needs of the year group.

Students will be encouraged to read, discuss, think, debate, research and present information.

Assessment Structure

The Year 9 students are assessed during the lessons to ensure that they are learning and retaining information, which they can explain when applied in the context of Citizenship and Personal, Social and Health Education.

Homework

Class teachers may ask students to research or prepare material for lessons. Students should also be encouraged to watch and read the news on a daily basis to ensure they have a broad cultural and general knowledge.

Resources to support learning

Essential - should be brought to every lesson, and can all be purchased from the equipment store in the library:

Black pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener

Information about additional websites that offer further background information for a broader understanding of the topics that are covered in lessons will be made available to students throughout their program of study in Year 9.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email your child's teacher or Mrs Childs philippac3@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES - FRENCH and GERMAN

Course Content:

In Year 9, students will study three main themes: family and relationships, technology and free time. Students will be building on knowledge and skills gained in Year 7 and 8 in order to tackle more challenging language. Manipulation of language, translation from and into target language, developing longer paragraphs, expressing opinions and justifications and spontaneous talk are an integral part of the course.

Assessment structure:

i. Internal assessment

Students will take an internal assessment at the end of each unit of work, comprising one of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

External assessment

Students are working towards the new specification AQA GCSE French / German. There are four exam papers of equal weighting (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) which will be taken at the end of year 11. There are two tiers of entry Foundation and Higher. Final decisions about tiers of entry for students will be taken after the December mock examinations in year 11.

Homework

Homework will be set each week and is expected to take approximately 30 minutes. In addition we would expect students to set aside extra revision time when preparing for internal assessments and to take the initiative in undertaking extra practice in areas they are finding difficult.

Tasks will be varied and could include:

- Reading comprehension and translation
- Consolidation exercises covering work undertaken in recent lessons
- Revision tasks reviewing work undertaken earlier in the course
- On-line exercises

Resources to support learning

Revision Books

All students will be given topic based vocabulary lists throughout the course. We strongly recommend that students spend time revising vocabulary as often as possible. We provide students with a wide range of resources and there is no need to purchase any additional course books. Students are given access to a digital version of an AQA French / German textbook via our school subscription to www.kerboodle.com (students are issued with individual login information which can be obtained from class teachers).

Exam Board and Web Links

Students study the AQA course for GCSE and it is possible to download the specification, past papers and mark schemes from their website - <http://web.aqa.org.uk> We recommend in particular www.linguascope.com (username and password can be obtained from class teachers and are on display in the MFL Department) and www.languagesonline.org.uk, both of which have excellent interactive grammar and vocabulary activities.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress at GCSE, please use the normal school numbers or email Dr Wolfenden, Head of MFL on helen.wolfenden@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

MUSIC

Course Content

Students have now completed several of their set works for GCSE Music. They will now have established their notes and audio record of set works in preparation for their revision schedule. There are further set works to be studied and this will be addressed in the autumn term. Time will also be spent by students preparing their pieces for course work performance. In addition to these students give careful consideration to their final two compositions to be presented as their exam coursework choosing them carefully from a suitable area of study.

Assessment Structure

The structure of the exam takes the form of three units.

Performing (30%)

In unit one, students prepare two pieces for performances. One of these must be a solo performance (for which there may be an accompanist i.e. solo flute and piano accompaniment) lasting a minimum of 1 minute and an ensemble performance where the student's part is easily identifiable, also lasting a minimum of 1 minute. Although more difficult pieces receive higher marks it is advisable for students to play within their technical ability. A moderately simple piece performed well is better than a difficulty piece performed badly. Students are advised to rehearse their performances early as this piece of course work will be recorded early in the spring term. Students are reminded that the minimum length for both of the performances combined is 4 minutes.

Composing Music (30%)

In unit 2 students are expected to produce two compositions, one of which is to a set brief and the other being a free composition, each having a minimum length of 1 minute. The combined length of the two compositions should be a minimum of three minutes. From this Students are assessed on composition skills. Controlled assessment conditions apply to this unit, which is assessed by the teacher and moderated by Edexcel.

Appraising (40%)

This takes the form of 1-hour 45-minute examination externally set and marked by Edexcel. Students respond to questions based around the eight set works for the unit.

Section A

- Students respond to questions 1-6 based on recorded extracts of set works.
- Question 7 is a dictation question based on one of the setworks.
- Question 8 is similar to that of 1-6 except that it is based on an unfamiliar piece of music. A skeleton score will be provided.

Section B

- In Section B, students answer a more in-depth question on a chosen set work(s) which requires the use of continuous prose.

Controlled Assessment Requirements

Performances

Students are supervised regularly when preparing their performances. In Unit 1, the controlled assessment applies to the recording of performances. Students are encouraged to rehearse and perform regularly to continuously develop their musicianship.

There is continued verbal and formative assessment throughout the course with a summative assessment at the end of each half term.

Composition

The requirement for controlled assessment does not mean that a composition submission has to be carried out, start to finish, under close supervision in the centre's music department. Composition can be divided broadly into two processes, 'research' and 'write up and recording'. Students must complete a minimum of five hours of their composing, including the final write up and recording, in a classroom setting under teacher supervision.

Students do not have to perform the pieces of music they have composed.

Homework

Homework will be set each week and is expected to take approximately 30 minutes. In addition we would expect students to set aside extra revision time when preparing for internal assessments and to take the initiative in undertaking extra practice in areas they are finding difficult. Tasks will be varied and could include:

- Essays on music set works
- Research assignments on different genres of music
- Wider listening and music appreciation

Mock Exam

This takes place in December

Written Exam

This takes place in June

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Mr A Wittich-Jackson, Head of Expressive Arts Faculty on Adamj29@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

PE (CORE)

Course Content

Students will study a broad and balanced curriculum. Our key concepts are to develop competence, performance, creativity and healthy active lifestyles, through the 2 assessed strands of:-

1. Decision Making
2. Physical skills and Fitness

Assessment Structure

At the start and end of every module of work, usually 4 to 6 weeks, the teacher will assess the student and relative progress will be seen. The school system of monitoring achievement will be used to record the general overall progress of each student.

Developing skills outside of lessons

There is a comprehensive extra-curricular programme that students can join in order to develop their skills further. There will be considerable competitive chances for intra-school (House) and inter-school challenges for boys and girls.

Resources to Support Learning (including equipment and kit)

The school will provide all the necessary equipment needed for all activities, but it is the student's responsibility to attend lessons in correct school kit. The compulsory kit is shown below.

Girls PE kit Compulsory	Boys PE kit Compulsory
MCS Polo shirt with logo	MCS Polo shirt with logo
MCS PE Skort	MCS PE shorts
MCS Socks - blue	MCS Rugby shirt with logo
Socks - white	MCS Socks - blue (2 pairs)
Training Shoes	Football boots
Shin Pads	Training Shoes
	Shin Pads

Gum shields are recommended for Rugby and Hockey.

For safety in Rugby, **studs** must be '**rugby legal**'. Metal 'blade' style studs and some nylon studs are illegal for rugby. **Rugby or football boots** are needed for grass use only.

Astro-turf trainers or standard trainers are needed for the artificial pitch. No studded or 'bladed' boots are allowed on the astro-turf pitch.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Mr A Wittich-Jackson, Head of Expressive Arts Faculty on Adamj29@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems (Component code: 1PE0/01)

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes

36% of the qualification, 90 marks

Content overview

Topic 1: Applied Anatomy and Physiology

Topic 2: Movement Analysis

Topic 3: Physical Training

Topic 4: Use of Data

Assessment overview

The assessment consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions.

Learners must answer all questions. Calculators can be used in the examination.

Component 2: Health and Performance (Component code: 1PE0/02)

Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes

24% of the qualification, 70 marks.

Content overview

Topic 1: Health, Fitness and Well-being

Topic 2: Sport Psychology

Topic 3: Socio-cultural Influences

Topic 4: Use of Data

Assessment overview

The assessment consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions.

Learners must answer all questions. Calculators can be used in the examination.

Component 3: Practical Performance (Component code: 1PE0/03)

Non-Examined Assessment (NEA): internally marked and externally moderated

30% of the qualification, 90 marks (30 marks per activity)

Content overview

Skills during individual and team activities, General performance skills

Assessment overview

The assessment consists of learners completing **three** physical activities from a set list. One must be a **team** activity. One must be an **individual** activity. The final activity can be a **free** choice.

Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) **(Component code: 1PE0/04)**

NEA: internally marked and externally moderated

10% of the qualification, 20 marks.

Content overview

Aim and planning analysis, Carrying out and monitoring the PEP, Evaluation of the PEP.

Assessment overview

The assessment consists of learners producing a PEP.

Learners will be required to analyse and evaluate their performance.

These will be assessed by the tutor and moderated by Pearson.

Homework

In Year 10, homework will consist of research tasks in order to develop in depth understanding. There will be regular revision needs in order to attain target grades in end of module tests and there will be “Long answer question” practices in order to train students to develop their answers in the correct way.

Weblinks and Books

To go straight to the GCSE PE website

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/physical-education-2016.html>

www.brianmac.co.uk is an excellent resource for fitness related work. GCSE bitesize at www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/pe/ is very good for revision.

GCSE Physical Education Edexcel Full Course Revision Guide is excellent and we hold some in stock in the Library.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us about any of the above information or any aspect of your son or daughter's progress in GCSE PE, please use the normal school numbers, email their teacher directly or contact Mr A Wittich-Jackson on adamj29@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

Course Content

Students in Year 9 commence the study of the Religious Studies (A) AQA GCSE course. The examination is taken at the end of Year 11 by all students.

Course content

The GCSE course comprises of two units. The topics covered are either brand new to the students, and in some topics build on knowledge gained in KS3 RE. The course is evenly split between: The study of Religions and Thematic Studies.

Assessment Structure

Unit 1: The study of religious beliefs, teaching and practices.

In this unit we will study Judaism and Christianity.

Written Paper – 1 hour 45 minutes

Unit 2: Thematic Studies

In this unit we will study 4 topics from the list below:

- Theme A: Relationships and families.
- Theme B: Religion and life.
- Theme C: The existence of God and revelation.
- Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.
- Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.
- Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

Written Paper – 1 hour 45 minutes

Revision

There are no tiers in this exam board – all students take the same two exams. We choose this course because it allows the students to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in the following ways:

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues.

Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

We hope that it inspires students to become global citizens, giving them the opportunity to explore their place in the world, their values and their responsibilities to other people.

Homework

Homework will be set each week and is expected to take approximately 1hr per fortnight. In addition we would expect students to set aside extra revision time when preparing for internal assessments and to take the initiative in undertaking extra practice in areas they are finding difficult.

Tasks will be varied and could include:

- Reading tasks
- Consolidation exercises covering work undertaken in recent lessons
- Revision tasks reviewing work undertaken earlier in the course
- Practice exam questions
- In depth case study creation

Resources to support learning

Essential - should be brought to every lesson (can all be purchased from the equipment store in the library)

Black pen; pencil; ruler; eraser; pencil sharpener;

Course Text books – will be provided by the department and are available in the Library. We have a limited number, so cannot be taken away from the RE area.

Revision Guides

The Grade 9-1 GCSE RE AQA Revision Guide is AQA GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies Specification A Paperback – 27 May 2016_by Lesley Parry (Author), Jan Hayes (Author), Sheila Butler (Author) ISBN ISBN-13: 978-1471866852

Exam Board and Web Links

Students study the AQA course for GCSE and it is possible to download the specification, past papers and mark schemes from their website <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062/introduction>

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email your child's teacher or Miss Katy Lilley (Head of Humanities Faculty) at Katy.lilley@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

SOCIOLOGY

Course content

GCSE Sociology aims to broaden students' minds, helping them to see their world from different perspectives and in new and thought-provoking ways. Our key themes are to understand the behaviour of people in terms of the age, gender, social class and other groups they belong to. We will study research methods to understand how sociologists collect their evidence in a systematic and scientific way, putting aside their own views. We will develop our specialised language of sociology and develop the skills to answer examination questions.

Assessment structure

We follow the AQA Sociology GCSE level course. It comprises of 7 units and 2 written exams which will be sat at the end of year 11. The exams are both 1 hour and 45 minutes in length. The questions range from short answers questions to extended writing answers. In all examinations the student will be expected to answer a range of short and extended answer responses.

In year sociology we will study:

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

There is no controlled assessment in Sociology. The final grade is based on 100% examination from the two exams. Leading up to the May exam, students will undertake several mock examination papers. These will be marked following the AQA examination marking scheme and feedback on how to improve will be discussed with your son/daughter.

Tailored revision sessions will be offered by the department and these will be advertised in the student bulletin and in the sociology classrooms.

Homework

Homework will be set each week and is expected to take approximately 1hr per fortnight. In addition we would expect students to set aside extra revision time when preparing for internal assessments and to take the initiative in undertaking extra practice in areas they are finding difficult.

Tasks will be varied and could include:

- Consolidation exercises covering work undertaken in recent lessons
- Watching a documentary or reading the daily papers and summarising the content
- Reading material that extends the students learning in class
- On-line research to support their developing knowledge
- Completing past questions
- Revision tasks reviewing work undertaken in lesson in preparation for a timed assessment

Resources to support learning

We use a variety of textbooks and resources. We recommend purchasing AQA GCSE Sociology All-in-One Revision and Practice (Collins GCSE 9-1 Revision) Paperback, published 25 Aug 2017. It costs around £11.00 ISBN-13: 978-000822745.

- Our core text book in class is AQA GCSE 9-1 Sociology Student Book (AQA GCSE (9-1) Sociology) Paperback – 29 Mar 2017 by Pauline Wilson (Author), Simon Addison (Author), Allan Kidd (Author). This is usually £25 to purchase. ISBN-13: 978-0008220143

Our previous students have found that a personal copy of revision or text books really support their learning and progression through the two years.

Exam Board

Students can access the AQA GCSE Sociology syllabus by visiting <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192/specification-at-a-glance> for more information, past papers and marking schemes.

Contact

Sociology is taught by Miss Lilley, Miss Maltby, Miss Balan and Miss Wright. If you would like to contact us for further information or clarity please use the normal school numbers or email Miss Lilley, Head of Humanities Faculty on Katy.Lilley@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Content:

The Design and Technology (9-1) involves learning about designing and making using card, paper, plastics, woods, metals, fabrics and textiles components. It is taught in our specialist equipped rooms with the support of digital projectors allowing the teacher to access a range of supporting materials to engage with all students.

Years 9 and 10 are divided into focused practical tasks and mini projects covering the majority of elements in the AQA syllabus as well as core theory lessons. Year 10 forms the foundation for the GCSE NEA (Non-examined Assessment), which commences in June of Year 10.

In Year 11 students continue with the core theory and complete the NEA (Non-examined assessment) project that constitutes 50% of the final grade. This is a design and make task where students research, design, manufacture, test, and model and manufacture a prototype utilising their material of choice.

How is the GCSE assessed?

Written paper: Core technical principles, Specialist technical principles, Designing and making principles. 50% of GCSE

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)

A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours. 50% of GCSE

Substantial design and make task in a material area of your choice. During the project, you will identify and investigate design possibilities, produce a design brief and specification, generate a range of design ideas, develop the ideas through modelling, produce a final prototype, which will be analysed and evaluated. This will be presented in a portfolio of evidence

For further information:

Please use the link below to the AQA Design and Technology (9-1) GCSE specification.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

Other useful Websites:

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize

www.technologystudent.com

www.design-technology.org

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us about any of the above information or any aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Mrs Natalie Tadman, Head of Faculty on natalie.tadman@magdalen.northants.sch.uk