



GCSE OPTIONS

2026-27

NORTH GATE BRITISH PRIVATE SCHOOL

Principals Welcome

Dear Students and Families,

Choosing your GCSE subjects is an exciting and important milestone in every student's journey. These choices will shape not only the next two years of learning, but also open pathways into future study, careers, and lifelong interests. At North Gate British Private School, we believe that every student should be empowered to make informed, ambitious, and well-supported decisions about their future.

This options booklet has been carefully designed to guide you through the subjects available, explain what each course involves, and help you reflect on your strengths, interests, and aspirations. Our curriculum is built around high expectations, strong academic foundations, and the development of key skills such as critical thinking, creativity, resilience, and independence — all essential for success in IGCSE and beyond.

We are proud of the breadth of opportunities on offer at North Gate, and of the dedicated teachers who will support students to achieve their very best. Alongside strong academic pathways, we place great value on character, kindness, and wellbeing, ensuring that our students grow not only as learners, but as confident, responsible young people.

I encourage all students to read this booklet carefully, discuss their choices with parents and teachers, and think positively about where they want their learning to take them. Whatever subjects you choose, we will be here to support you every step of the way. We look forward to helping you build a successful and fulfilling GCSE journey.

Warm regards,

Mr Tom Meakin

Principal

North Gate British Private School



Head of Secondary Welcome

Dear Students,

I am proud to share this GCSE Options Booklet with you all as you approach this important stage of your education. You are about to make decisions that will shape the next phase of your learning journey. Choosing your GCSE subjects is an exciting opportunity to reflect on your interests, strengths, and future ambitions.

At North Gate British Private School, we believe that every student is capable of success when they are motivated, challenged, and supported. Your GCSE courses will help you develop essential knowledge, skills, and habits that prepare you not only for examinations, but also for further study, future careers, and life beyond school. It is important that you choose subjects that you enjoy, that play to your strengths, and that keep your options open for the future.

This booklet has been designed to guide you through the options process. It provides clear information about each subject, including course content, assessment methods, and the skills you will develop. Take time to read it carefully, discuss your choices with your parents, teachers, and tutors, and ask questions whenever you are unsure.

Remember, these decisions should be thoughtful and well-informed, but they should also be positive and exciting. We look forward to supporting you as you take this next step in your academic journey.

Choose wisely,

Ms. Dani Guscott

Head of Secondary

North Gate British Private School



Top Tips for students

Here are a few top tips to consider before considering the options you select for GCSE

Choose subjects you're good at

Confidence + success = better grades.

Pick subjects you actually enjoy

You'll be studying them for two years — enjoyment matters.

Don't follow your friends

Your timetable (and future) is yours, not theirs.

Think about what you might want to do later

Some A Levels, BTECs, and careers need certain GCSEs.

Keep your options open

If you're unsure about the future, choose subjects that give you flexibility.

GCSEs are harder than Key Stage 3

Subjects go deeper and expect more independent learning.

Ask your teachers for advice

They know your strengths and how you learn best.

Get a good balance of subjects

A mix of academic, creative, and practical subjects works best.

Check how each subject is assessed

Exams, coursework, practical work — choose what suits you.

There are no “easy” GCSEs

All GCSEs need effort, organisation, and commitment.

Be realistic about workload

Some subjects need more homework and coursework time.

Research careers properly

Don't guess — find out what subjects are needed.

Don't choose a subject just because of the teacher

Teachers can change; subjects stay.

Creative and technical subjects matter

They build skills like problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork.

Choose subjects you'll be proud of

These choices help shape your future — own them.

**"Education
is like a
lantern
which lights
your way in
a dark alley"**





COMPLUSORY SUBJECTS

INFORMATION ABOUT
COMPLUSORY SUBJECTS

Arabic and Islamic Studies

Arabic A

Students who have registered at NGBS using an Arab passport are required by UAE law to study the Ministry of Education Arabic course, known as Arabic A, for 4 lessons per week. Arab students must, therefore, choose Ministry Arabic as one of their 4 option subjects.

However, there are some advantages. Firstly, the students will use their certificates to be equated in their home country when needed, thus removing any obstacles to university applications. Secondly, Arabic native students can obtain higher grades easily when they take Arabic A- level 'as a second language' as a private candidate when applying to certain foreign universities in different countries.

Arabic B (Examination)

KEY FACTS	
Arabic B is a compulsory subject at Year 10. All students will follow the MOE curriculum and will be given the option to be entered for the GCSE Examination at the end of Year 10. Information regarding the GCSE program can be seen below:	
Qualification Type	General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)
Specification Codes	1AA0
Level	Level 1 / 2
Accreditation Status	Accredited
Availability	UK and International
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications
For further information, please contact	Ms. Gihan Mansour

What are the benefits of studying Arabic?

Studying Arabic will give students the opportunity to learn how to communicate in Arabic in Dubai, the UAE and the other Arabic-speaking countries. They will learn more about Arabic civilisation and culture. Choosing GCSE Arabic will provide students with the chance to develop their language skills and improve their skills of memorisation and speed reading.

What will students' study?

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9 – 1) in Arabic allows students to develop their ability to communicate with Arabic native speakers in both speech and writing. Students will study across a variety of contexts relevant to their age and interests and will also develop a greater awareness of the culture of Arabic-speaking communities and countries.

Islamic (Examination)

KEY FACTS	
Islamic is a compulsory subject at Key Stage 4. All Muslim students will follow the MOE curriculum and will be given the option to be entered for the GCSE Examination at the end of Year 11. Information regarding the GCSE program can be seen below:	
Qualification Type	GCSE
Specification Codes	4IS1
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications
For further information, please contact	Ms. Gihan Mansour

English Language

KEY FACTS	
This is a compulsory subject for all GCSE students	
Examining Board	Pearson Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	English Language 4EA1
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying English Language?

Enjoyment and a love of language and literature are fundamental to the planning and delivery of our curriculum, coupling a skills-based approach with dynamic and engaging content.

Communication skills are vital. Being able to speak, listen, read and write are the cornerstones of building personal relationships and being successful in all aspects of life. Within English Language, we encourage formal, ambitious and sophisticated written expression, whilst also developing an inquisitive mindset in the analytical components of the qualification.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

Enjoyment and a love of language and literature are fundamental to the planning and delivery of our curriculum, coupling a skills-based approach with dynamic and engaging content.

Communication skills are vital. Being able to speak, listen, read and write are the cornerstones of building personal relationships and being successful in all aspects of life. Within English Language, we encourage formal, ambitious and sophisticated written expression, whilst also developing an inquisitive mindset in the analytical components of the qualification.

Students will read, understand and analyse a range of text types with a focus on:

- Critical reading comprehension
- Summary and synthesis
- Evaluation of writers' methods
- Critical comparison Writing

Students will aim to write clearly, coherently, accurately and persuasively, using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures to write for impact.

What can students do next?

Success at GCSE English Language is an excellent foundation for studying all A-levels. Students must achieve a Grade 4 in English Language to study all A-level subjects. Students wishing to study English Language or Literature at A-level must achieve a minimum of a Grade 6 in English Language. It is also an indication to employers that students are able to understand how language can convey meaning and the importance of technical accuracy within written communication.

English Literature

KEY FACTS	
This is a compulsory subject for all GCSE students	
Examining Board	Pearson Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	4ET1 BR
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying English Literature?

The English Department aims to embed a love of English and create a safe environment for all students to speak, listen, read, write and think. Students are encouraged to read a wide range of classic literature alongside reading widely, often and for pleasure. The English Literature course will develop their ability to critically evaluate works of literature in depth in order to appreciate the power of English literary heritage.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

Students will study a range of prose, poetry and drama with a focus on:

- Literal and inferential comprehension
- Critical reading
- Evaluation of writers' choices
- Critical comparison and contrast

- Analysing form and structural features and using literary and linguistic terminology in writing
- Students will write effectively and analytically about literature, producing clear and coherent text, using Standard English

What can students do next?

Success at GCSE English Literature is an excellent foundation for studying English Literature at A-level. Students require a minimum of a Grade 6 at GCSE to be able to study English Literature. It is also an indication to employers that students can recognise patterns, understand how language can convey meaning and how written communication can be manipulated for specific effects

Mathematics

KEY FACTS	
This is a compulsory subject for all GCSE Students	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	Mathematics 1MA1
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying Mathematics?

Aside from the obvious reasons of love and interest in the subject, Mathematics is one of the most powerful tools for analysis and problem solving known to mankind.

It is vital for students to study Mathematics for the following reasons:

- To develop logical and creative thinking processes to improve problem solving ability
- To increase the capacity of their brain through vigorous efforts to solve problems and overcome difficulties in understanding
- To pick up the mathematical skills necessary for everyday life
- To develop a skills base for further study of mathematics or for a career involving higher level mathematics
- To obtain qualifications which are vital for certain careers or further study

What will students' study?

At NGBS we offer a two-year GCSE course which runs through Year 10 and 11. Students will be entered for the relevant examinations at the end of Year 11.

How will students be assessed in GCSE Mathematics?

There are two tiers of entry - Foundation (F) (Grades 1 to 5, equivalent to Grade G to B) and Higher (H) (Grades 4 to 9, equivalent to Grade D to A*). Both entry levels are assessed by three examinations, one non-calculator paper and two calculator papers. These examinations have equal weighting towards the final award. The content covered on these papers will comprise a mixture of the following topics:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change
- Geometry and Measure
- Statistics and Probability

Moral, Social and Cultural Education

KEY FACTS
This is a compulsory subject for all students up to the end of Year 10
Internally Assessed

Moral, Social and Cultural Studies (MSC) follows a diverse and engaging curriculum set by the UAE Ministry of Education that gives schools flexibility in the subject's delivery. All students in Year 10 are timetabled an hourly lesson per week covering the three strands of Moral, Social and Culture - with a focus on promoting a holistic knowledge and understanding of the UAE.

What are the benefits of studying Moral, Social and Cultural Education?

At NGBS our vision is to get to the heart of the question 'Where have we come from and where are we going to?'. We view the subject as a vehicle for developing real depth of understanding in the past, present and future of the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring countries and continents.

We believe it to be crucial that students, as future leaders and shapers of our country's future, can appreciate the extraordinary circumstances that have taken place in and around the UAE for them, and their family, to be here today.

What will students' study?

In a single year, students might go from exploring Asia's early civilisations and pre-Islamic history, to the expansion of global empires, to the founding of the UAE and the current geopolitical situation of the GCC. Students will be encouraged to be ambitious, discursive and collaborative in their approach to learning.

Assessment is an important part of the MSCE curriculum. The assessments have been designed to accelerate the development of skills required in other Humanities subjects with students being taught to write clearly, concisely and critically.

Science

KEY FACTS	
This is a compulsory subject for all GCSE Students	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	4SDO (Double) (4SS0 (Single)
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying Science?

All students at NGBS begin their GCSE journey in Science in Year 9. This is a core subject and has strong emphasis on scientific literacy. Science is able to inform problem solving and decision making in many areas of life. Many of the major challenges and opportunities that confront our world need to be approached from a scientific perspective, taking into account social and ethical considerations.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

In Term 3 of Year 8/9, teachers will advise students which pathway is best for them to continue with in science.

GCSE Combined Science

This course covers all three Sciences. It is a course designed to fully prepare students for the basic concepts required to continue onto A Level. There are 16 required practical tasks covered across the 3 subjects. The slight reduction in content in this course allows students the time to fully develop and apply the knowledge gained in the subjects. Students gain two GCSE grades, an average of marks across the three subjects.

Separate Sciences in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

A small number of students in the cohort will take the pathway that leads to three GCSE grades in science. Students recommended for this course will have shown high marks across Year 9 and 10 content. They will already be able to apply their knowledge to unfamiliar situations. Students will have demonstrated that they are able to cope with the workload across all their other subjects. This course has a higher volume of content in comparison to the Combined course.

INFORMATION ABOUT OPTIONAL SUBJECT



Artificial Intelligence

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	LRN
Syllabus/Code	AI
Specification Link	LRN International GCSE – LRN Schools

What are the benefits of studying AI?

The LRN International GCSE Artificial Intelligence is designed to introduce learners to the foundational concepts and applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Students will explore both the technical and ethical dimensions of AI systems through a mix of theory, practical tasks, and independent projects.

This qualification introduces learners to the foundational concepts and applications of Artificial Intelligence. It fosters problem-solving, creativity, and critical thinking, equipping learners for further study and careers in technology, data science, and digital innovation.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

Students will have the opportunity to study Artificial Intelligence through Learning Resource Network (LRN) by exploring how AI works, how data is used to make decisions, and how intelligent systems are applied in real-world contexts such as business, healthcare, media, and technology. The course focuses on practical, future-ready skills including problem-solving, logical thinking, ethical use of AI, digital responsibility, and understanding emerging technologies, with assessment designed to suit a range of learners through applied tasks rather than purely exam-based learning. This pathway supports students who are interested in technology, innovation, and digital careers, while keeping options open for further study at Level 3 and beyond.

Art and Design – Fine Art

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	Art and Design 4FA01 (Fine Art)
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying GCSE Art and Design?

GCSE Art and Design is about having an adventurous and enquiring approach and developing the skills to express it. Students will develop an understanding of past and contemporary Art and Design and will be able to produce a personal response embracing a range of ideas. It is an opportunity to develop their skills, both formally and creatively. Students will learn how to make meaningful and appropriate creative decisions based on problem solving. Above all, studying art develops skills in time management, organisation and independence, all key skills vital to future success.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

Students will develop a working knowledge of the materials, practices and technology of Art and Design. They will learn the skills needed to investigate, analyse and experiment using Art and Design media. They will develop their imaginative powers and the skills necessary to express their own ideas, feelings and meanings. Students will gain an understanding of the language and conventions of Art and Design and the place of Art and Design in history and society. During Year 10, students will be introduced to sketchbook keeping, a range of drawing and painting media, as well as printmaking and sculpture. These skills will then be utilised in a more independent manner for the duration of Year 11.

Business Studies

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	4BS1
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying GCSE Business Studies?

Business Studies is a practical subject related to the real world. As an employee or an entrepreneur, an understanding of business is hugely beneficial.

The aim of GCSE Business Studies is to provide the study of business through class work which provides students with a sound basis for progression to Advanced Levels in Business Studies and Economics. To develop students or employees who have a sound understanding of business and ability to use knowledge, skills and understanding appropriately in the context of the UK and European markets. Finally, Business Studies increases awareness and consideration of the moral, social, ethical and cultural issues within a business environment.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

Students will be required to demonstrate specific knowledge and critical understanding of:-

- The issues associated with setting up, and the operation of a business
- Marketing, finance, human resources and operations management
- How and why businesses grow, including organisational development and legal structures

Computing

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	4CP0
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying IGCSE Computing?

In the ever-changing, fast-paced, technology-driven world that we currently live in, much of the future lies in the hands of tomorrow's Computer Scientists. The IGCSE Computer Science course immerses students into the technical world of computers. Students will explore a range of programming languages and learn the fundamentals of writing computer code. Computer Science underpins many other subjects such as Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering. Students will gain lifelong skills in computational thinking, logical reasoning, innovation and problem solving. Instead of just being users of technology, the Computer Science course offers students the opportunity to become developers of technology.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

The specification includes a balance between Computer Science theory and practical programming skills.

The theoretical side includes:

- Emerging Technologies
- Computer Hardware
- Networking
- Binary, Denary and Hexadecimal Number Systems
- Logic Circuits
- The Internet
- Cyber Security
- Computer Ethics

The practical element includes:

- Building Computers
- Writing Algorithms
- Coding in Python, HTML and CSS
- Using Industry Standard Software

Students will have the opportunity to develop the following skills throughout the course:

- Computational Thinking
- Programming
- Problem Solving
- Perseverance
- Creativity
- Innovation
- Project Management

Design Technology

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	1DT0
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying GCSE Design & Technology?

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will have the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. Our GCSE allows students to study core technical, designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth. For DESS students, this will be Timber-based materials.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

- Actively engage in the processes of Design and Technology to develop as effective and independent learners
- Make decisions, consider sustainability and combine skills with knowledge and understanding in order to design and make quality products
- Explore ways in which aesthetic, technical, economic, environmental, ethical and social dimensions interact to shape designing and making
- Analyse existing products and produce practical solutions to needs, wants and opportunities, recognising their impact on the quality of life
- Develop decision-making skills through individual and collaborative working
- Understand that designing and making reflect and influence cultures and societies and that products have an impact on lifestyle

Drama

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	GCSE
Syllabus/Code	Drama IGCSE0994
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying IGCSE Drama?

The IGCSE Drama course provides students with a dynamic learning environment. In Year 10, the course is structured as a foundation year where students experience all aspects of the course to give them the necessary skills for their assessments, which take place at the end of the year and in Year

11. Drama suits students who enjoy working practically and collaboratively with others. Students are given the opportunity to develop their leadership and communication skills as well as working creatively to develop original theatre. Students will gain an understanding of the different roles which exist within the theatre from acting and directing to designing and they will be given the opportunity to develop skills in all of these areas. Students will explore a wide range of practical work including a range of contemporary scripts and practitioners which will influence their own devised work.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

As a student you will: -

- Develop performance skills, both individually and in groups
 - Gain an understanding of the role of actor, director and designer in creating a piece of theatre
 - Consider ways in which ideas and feelings can be communicated to an audience
 - Discover the performance possibilities of plays and other dramatic stimuli
 - Devise dramatic material of your own
- Students will be expected to attend after-school rehearsals to develop performance work.

Economics

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	IGCSE
Syllabus/Code	4EC1
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying Edexcel IGCSE Economics?

The IGCSE Economics course equips students with the basic tools to help them understand their place in, and contribute to, the local, national and global economy as consumers, workers and citizens. It develops the students' understanding of economic concepts and theories. Students will investigate a range of contemporary economic issues and analyse the evidence from different perspectives. The course provides students with a foundation for further study at A level Economics and encourages a better understanding of the world in which students live.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

The Edexcel IGCSE Economics syllabus develops an understanding of economic terminology, principles and basic economic theory. Students study the economics of developed and developing nations and how these interrelate. They also learn to handle simple data and undertake economic analysis, evaluate information and discriminate between facts and value judgements in economic issues. Further reading on the UK, EU and worldwide economic issues is an important part of the subject. Therefore, emphasis is placed on students keeping up to date with economic events through reading books, newspapers and watching the news. This will help students apply their understanding of theory to reach reasoned conclusions.

Esports (TBC)

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	Edexcel BTEC
Syllabus/Code	BTEC Level 1
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying Esports?

The esports industry is a fast-growing global industry. Esports is defined as organised competitive gaming, which is human versus human, either as individuals or in teams. This suite of qualifications includes a breadth of transferrable skills that enable learners to experience esports in different areas to aid their progression to employment, directly or via further study. Esports offers a unique opportunity to deliver a curriculum that teaches concepts in the context of multiple skills and subject areas at once. It provides an opportunity for alignment of social, physical, mental and financial skills into one qualification to deepen and expand learning, skills which are highly valued in the changing and fluid workplace. Learners must apply strategy, skill and teamwork to be successful.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders. This ensures that the content is appropriate and consistent with current industry practice to enable learners to enter employment or further study. This is a career-focused qualification with industry endorsement enabling learners to develop underpinning knowledge and technical and transferable skills that gain experience in a variety of different sections of the esports industry. Learners taking this qualification will study 5 mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Esports Games, Teams and Tournaments
 - Unit 2: Establishing an Esports Organisation
 - Unit 3: Streaming for Esports
 - Unit 4: Plan an Esports Event
 - Unit 5: Start an Enterprise in Esports and one optional unit from the following:
 - Unit 6: Design an Esports Game
 - Unit 7: Positive Health and Well-being in Esports.

French

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	French 4FR1
For further information, please contact	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying GCSE French

Improved communication, greater opportunities for travel and the increasingly multilingual and multicultural composition of our society mean that distance and national frontiers are no longer a barrier to contact with a rich diversity of people from different cultural backgrounds

As well as contributing to students' development as citizens, Modern Foreign Languages have the potential to enrich their lives. They develop students' understanding and appreciation of different countries, cultures, people and communities, making students aware that they are citizens of the world, especially in a multicultural city like Dubai. They lay the foundations for the study of other languages later in life, to be used for pleasure or for work.

Being able to communicate in a foreign language can broaden the range and variety of accessible careers, improve employability and facilitating personal mobility. While only a few jobs require specialist expertise in other languages, foreign language skills are desirable and useful in a wide range of careers at different levels. As well as increasing employability, they can really enhance career opportunities and variety. People with foreign language skills tend to have good communication skills, which enhance their employment prospects.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

The GCSE in either French or Spanish builds on the work covered in Key Stage 3 in the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Three themes are covered: people and lifestyle, popular culture and communication and the world around us.

It is hoped that an exchange program or a residential visit will be arranged to provide an opportunity for students to experience at first hand the language and culture of their chosen specialism.

Graphics

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	Graphics 4GC1/4FA0
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying GCSE Graphics?

Graphic Communication introduces students to a visual way of conveying information, ideas and emotions, using a range of graphic media, processes, techniques and elements such as colour, icons, images, typography and photographs. Students should conduct primary and secondary investigations during their design development, and explore traditional and/or new technologies. They should also consider the use of signs and symbols, and the balance between aesthetic and commercial considerations.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

There are many skills, techniques, materials, processes and concepts that are essential to all areas of study in Graphic Communication. In addition to any specialist requirements listed under the chosen area(s) of study, students should develop a practical knowledge and understanding of:

- the use of formal elements and visual communication through a variety of approaches

- the use of observational skill to record from sources and communicate ideas
- graphic materials and techniques such as traditional and digital graphics, printing and web-based technologies.
- properties of colour and light such as hue, tint, saturation and tone
- the effects and creative potential of combining and manipulating different two dimensional and three-dimensional materials and media.
- the use of digital and/or non-digital applications.

Geography

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	Geography A/GE01
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying GCSE Geography?

When a geographer stands on top of the mountain, they see the landscape stretching out before them and the view sharpens into focus. They see the rock type below the surface by the way it affects the land use above it. The geographer detects how the landscape has been used over the generations and how this has left its mark on the land. Geographers draw on other disciplines such as Biology, Chemistry, Maths and, even History to make conclusions about the world, but they go further than simply bringing them together. They do something unique in using these as tools to examine the relationships between seemingly separate disciplines to make sense of what they see. This is what we mean by “thinking like a Geographer”.

The world can be a confusing place, but Geography helps students to make sense of it. How else can we understand the debates over inequality within and between countries? How can we see the impact of our actions on the environment? Or how can we really understand how energy resources should best be managed? A geographical education is important because it takes all that humans have discovered about the planet we call home and passes it on to the next generation and then challenges them to add to this body of knowledge themselves. Geography is their inheritance as well as their instruction manual.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

Students will examine many of the major contemporary themes facing the world, including environmental, economic, social and political issues. The course will allow students to make informed judgements about many of the geographical issues that are facing the world today. They will be encouraged to make decisions about complex issues using a variety of sources.

Students will be required to handle data using ICT, as well as written sources. They will collect data during field trips within Dubai, as well as rural areas within the Emirate. They will then present and evaluate their findings. They will develop their overall Geographical skills, organise themselves within groups, as well as work independently.

The main 3 units of work that will be covered include:

Unit 1: The Changing Landscape of the UK; Glaciers; Coasts; Weather Hazards and Climate Change; and Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Management

Unit 2: Changing Cities; Global Development; and Resource Management

Unit 3: Physical (Coasts) and Urban (Changing Cities) Fieldwork; and UK Challenges

History

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	4H11
For further information, please contact	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying GCSE History?

History encourages an understanding of how our present world has been shaped by past events and of the key stages in the development of human civilisation. GCSE History develops a wealth of important skills such as identifying and evaluating sources, discursive writing, developing and presenting arguments and communicating ideas. Top universities such as Oxford and Cambridge see it as one of the most valuable and academically rigorous subjects. It prepares students for a range of careers including journalism, law, Business, academia, teaching and research. History is an umbrella discipline through which students encounter many other disciplines: Economics, Geography, Ethics, Political Philosophy, Psychology and Art. That is why historians always do so well in general knowledge quizzes! Studying History can enrich in other ways: by fostering empathy, kindling the imagination, encouraging the development of judgements and giving perhaps more scope for debate than any other school subject. It is intellectually rewarding but it is also exciting!

What will students have the opportunity to study?

Students will study the following during their history course:

Year 10

- Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870- c1900: crime, policing and the inner city
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939

Year 11

- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–1991
- Early Elizabethan England, 1555-1588

Music

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	1MU0
For further information, please contact	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying GCSE Music?

This qualification supports students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills including performing, composing and appraising. This qualification encourages students to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities

What will students have the opportunity to study?

The purpose of this component is to assess students' performing skills in both a solo and ensemble context. Students should be given the opportunity to rehearse and refine performances on their chosen instrument or voice, developing technical control, expression and interpretative skills. This component will encourage students to develop creative thinking, aesthetic sensitivity, critical awareness, self-confidence, self-motivation and their own musical interests and skills. This includes the ability to make music individually and in groups, and perform with control, using phrasing and dynamics appropriate to their chosen styles and moods of music.

The areas of content covered are:

- solo performing
- ensemble performing
- approaches to performing. Students must perform:
 - solo performance: this must be of at least one minute in duration, and may comprise one or more pieces
 - ensemble performance: this must be of at least one minute in duration, and may comprise one or more pieces.
- total performance time across both performances must be a minimum of four minutes of music.

PE GCSE

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	Physical Education (1PE0)
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying GCSE Physical Education?

The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education. It provides students with opportunities to apply their theoretical knowledge to a range of sporting scenarios. The course promotes and emphasises the importance of a lifelong healthy active lifestyle.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

The course is structured as follows:

The theory element is split into six topics. These are as follows:

- Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, health fitness and well being, sport psychology, socio-cultural influences.
- The practical element assesses performance in three sports. The three sports must include one team activity and one individual activity, from the list published by the exam board (Edexcel). Students may showcase out of school activities by providing video evidence. Students will be expected to have a keen interest in a number of activities and practise outside of lesson time to improve their attainment.

Photography

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	Photography 4PY1/4FA0
Specification Link	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying GCSE Photography?

Photography may be defined as the creative journey through the process of lens- and light based media. It could include work created using film, video, digital imaging or light sensitive materials. With the developments of new affordable lens-based technologies, students should attempt to use the photographic mediums to explore and create a body of work, which develops and refines both the process and the concept. Students should obtain permission from the examination centre if they wish to take their own computer, printer and photographic paper to the examination venue.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

There are many skills, techniques, materials, processes and concepts that are essential to all areas of study in Photography. In addition to any specialist requirements listed under the chosen area(s) of study, students should develop a practical knowledge and understanding of:

- the use of formal elements to communicate a variety of approaches
the camera and its functions, including depth of field, shutter speed, focal points and viewpoints
- the application of observational skills to record from sources and communicate ideas
- the effects and creative potential of combining and manipulating different two-dimensional and three-dimensional materials and media
- the use of digital and/or non-digital applications.
Students will be expected to develop a knowledge and understanding of:
- the uses of light as the most important element in photography

- view points, composition, depth of field
- darkroom techniques involving the recognition of appropriate paper types, developing and printing, emulsions, exposures, tone and contrast
- manipulation of the image, either silver-based technology or digital format, through electronic and mechanical means including lasers, computers, scanners and photocopiers.

Psychology

KEY FACTS	
Examining Board	Edexcel
Syllabus/Code	Psychology 1PS0
For further information, please contact	Our qualifications Pearson qualifications

What are the benefits of studying GCSE Psychology?

Psychology is the science of the mind; the study of among other things, how our thought processes work, why we behave the way we do and how we learn. This course will help students to better understand both themselves and others and provides a great introduction for those interested in studying Psychology at a higher level.

The course is designed to encourage students to engage in the process of psychological enquiry to develop effective and independent learners, as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. Throughout the course students will develop an awareness of why Psychology matters, acquiring knowledge and understanding of how Psychology works and its essential role in society.

Students will also develop an understanding of the relationship between Psychology and social, cultural, scientific and contemporary issues contributing to individual, social and cultural diversity.

What will students have the opportunity to study?

Year 10 - Cognition & Behaviour

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research Methods

Year 11 - Social Context & Behaviour

- Social Influence
- Language, Thought & Communication
- Brain & Neuropsychology
- Psychological Problems





**We believe that
the classroom
extends beyond
four walls.**

Our school farming initiatives are designed to reconnect students with the source of their food, fostering a deep-seated respect for nature and a practical understanding of sustainability.



