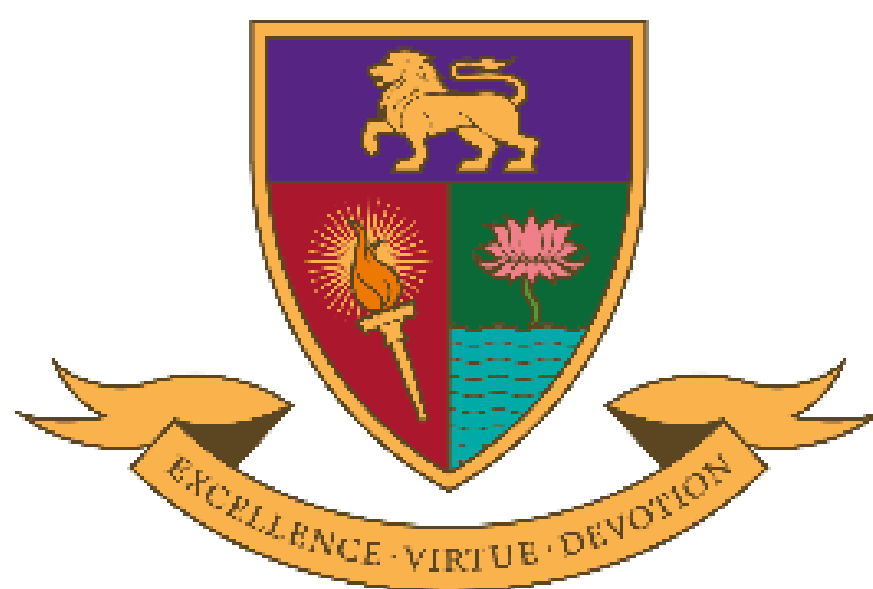


# OPTIONS BOOKLET 2020

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At Avanti fields we strive to enable students to understand and develop into the best version of themselves, undertaking a journey of self-discovery in order to fulfil their intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual potential.



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

# OPTIONS INTRODUCTION



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This is an important time in your education. In Key Stage 4, you have the opportunity to prepare for your future and gain the qualifications that will help you achieve this. It is important to take time, take good advice and to make choices wisely.

At Avanti Fields School, our curriculum is balanced with an academic core. You will find that most subjects are compulsory, which means that you have to study them to make sure that you have a broad education that prepares you for whatever you may choose to do in the future. We want to ensure that you have the right experience and qualifications that will lead on successfully to further study at college, employment or training.

The vast majority of students will study the CORE curriculum, which will include all the subjects that make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) as shown in the table below:

EBACC GCSE SUBJECTS
English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Science (Combined Science or Separate Sciences)
Geography <b>OR</b> History
Foreign Language (Spanish)

This set of subjects has been shown year after year to provide the best preparation for future life. If you are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

You also have some choices to make. As part of the options process, you will have a discussion with a member of senior staff who will help you with your decisions. After the meeting, you should discuss your ideas with people who you know will give you sensible advice – your family, teachers, and your form tutor. Use this booklet to find out more about the courses on offer at Key Stage 4.

Whatever subjects you choose, the learning that takes place at Key Stage 4 will enable you to understand and develop into the best version of yourselves, undertaking a journey of self-discovery in order to fulfil your intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual potential.

It is an exciting time but also a time you need to take seriously. Think carefully about what you are doing, make sensible decisions and work really hard for the rest of Year 9 so that you are ready for the challenge of Years 10 and 11.

**The research found that students studying EBacc subjects for GCSE, were more likely to stay in education after 16.**

*The Centre for Longitudinal Studies, August 2017*

**The Russell Group has named languages as subjects that open doors to more degrees at universities.**

*(The Russell Group is a group of 24 universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement)*

# KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM



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All students will follow GCSE level courses in:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Education: Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

**ALL** students study science and this will lead to two GCSEs (Combined Science) or three GCSEs (Separate Sciences). [Students can still take any A Level science if they complete the Combined Science course]

The vast majority of students will also study Spanish as their main foreign language.

Students will also have core PE and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) as part of their curriculum; both valuable parts of the KS4 curriculum. These are non-examination subjects.

## OPTION SUBJECTS:

For the remaining curriculum time, students will be guided in choosing additional subjects.

Most students **must** choose **one** of the following humanities GCSE courses:

- Geography
- History

[Students CAN choose both humanities subjects if they wish, in which case one of these humanities will be part of the final free choice option]

Students can then select one of the following GCSE subjects as part of the free choice:

- Art
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Geography
- History
- Media Studies

Most students will study 9 GCSE subjects.

This booklet has a page dedicated to each GCSE subject, explaining what each course involves in more detail.

Students will be asked to make a first and second choice. Wherever possible, students will be granted their first choice. However, the **courses will only run if they are a viable option, and there are many issues that may affect this.**

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”*

**Nelson Mandela**

*“It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.”*

**J K Rowling**

# CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION



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Below is a brief description of Core PE and PSHE. These are both valuable parts of the Key Stage 4 curriculum, but they do not lead to a qualification.

Physical Education remains a compulsory subject in Years 10 and 11 and all students have 2 lessons dedicated to the subject. The emphasis in Key Stage 4 is on developing Sports Leadership skills; to plan, deliver and critically evaluate their own performance and that of others.

We also place a high importance on participation and enjoyment to inspire and instil a lifelong love and interest in sport and physical activity in our students. In Year 11 there is an element of choice in provision to allow students to partake in physical activity in an enjoyable environment.

## PSHE Personal, Social and Health Education

During Key Stage 4, students develop their understanding of the rights and responsibilities they have as active British and Global citizens and members of society. There are opportunities to discuss significant topical issues and develop an understanding of how society works and the skills and abilities needed to navigate this. Students have opportunities to develop skills such as debating, research techniques, negotiation and participation.

The careers programme at Key Stage 4 helps students to explore the range of opportunities available post 16. Students have opportunities to research their own career aspirations alongside advice and guidance from external providers. In Year 11 students complete applications for post 16 education and training. The application process is an opportunity for students to showcase their academic ability and their wider school and external contributions.

Through a carefully sequenced PSHE curriculum all students will be given the opportunity to reflect on key areas of wellbeing and resilience, which is aligned to both our core values and also the key learner and behaviour qualities of our unique Avanti Fields Way wheel that aims to promote success and happiness now and in the future. Additionally, through our PRE provision all students will be guided to reflect and develop spiritually and personally into the best version of themselves.

*"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen."*

***Michael Jordan***

*Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow."*

***Anthony J D'Angelo***



# GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

*"If you want to change the world, pick up a pen and write." Martin Luther*

**Enrich students' lives through an introduction to the very best that has been thought and said in classic and contemporary fiction and non-fiction.**

Students will draw upon a range of literary fiction and extended non-fiction text, as reading stimulus, and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Students develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes. They learn to read fluently and write effectively, demonstrating a confident control of Standard English. The ability to write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative and analytical language, and subject terminology, are all developed throughout the course. GCSE English Language is taught alongside GCSE English Literature, leading to two GCSE qualifications.

The AQA GCSE English Language course offers all students the opportunity of demonstrating their skills, and achieving their potential on the terminal examinations at the end of Year 11. There are no tiers for these examinations, so students of all abilities sit the same examination papers.

There is also a Speaking and Listening element to GCSE English Language, which is teacher-assessed and attracts a Pass / Merit / Distinction. It is reported separately on the list of results as a *Speaking and Listening Endorsement*.

## KEY SKILLS DEVELOPED THROUGHOUT THE COURSE

- Read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism
- Read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts
- Summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts
- Use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- Use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- Listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.

## ASSESSMENT

Two terminal examinations taken at the end of the two-year course (Year 11). Students also complete a Spoken Language Endorsement, which leads to a separate award (Pass / Merit / Distinction).

**GCSE English Language Paper 1: *Creative Reading and Writing*** is 1 hour 15 minutes long, and is worth 50% of the overall GCSE. The examination paper consists of two sections: Section A tests reading and analytical skills on an unseen fiction text, while Section B is an extended writing task, assessing fluency, use of Standard English, and accuracy of writing.

**GCSE English Language Paper 2: *Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives*** is 1 hour and 45 minutes long, and is worth 50% of the overall GCSE qualification. The examination paper consists of two sections: Section A tests reading and analytical skills on two unseen pieces of literary non-fiction, while Section B is an extended writing task, assessing fluency, use of Standard English, and accuracy of writing.

## QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: AQA
- Specification: 8700

## POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

- Publishing
- Technical writing
- Journalism
- Media industry
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Public Relations
- Public sector
- Law
- Teacher
- Librarian

**SUBJECT LEAD: MRS R KEALY**

# GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

*"Literature helps us transcend ourselves." Mohsin Hamid*

**Enrich students' lives through an introduction to the very best in classic and contemporary English literature.**

Through their study of English literature at GCSE, students develop their knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. The course enables them to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. Studying GCSE English Literature encourages students to read widely for pleasure, and as a preparation for studying literature at a higher level.

The AQA GCSE English Literature course offers all students the opportunity of demonstrating their skills, and achieving their potential on the terminal examinations at the end of Year 11. There are no tiers for these examinations, so students of all abilities sit the same examination papers.

The content of the course includes works by the following writers from the pre-20<sup>th</sup> literary canon: William Shakespeare; Alfred Lord Tennyson; William Blake; William Wordsworth; R. L. Stevenson; Robert Browning and Christina Rossetti. It also encompasses works by significant writers from the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond: J.B. Priestley; Simon Armitage; Daljit Nagra and Imtiaz Dhakar.

## KEY TOPICS STUDIED

- **Paper 1: *Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> century novel*** – 1 hour 45 minutes, and worth 40% of the overall GCSE. **Section A Shakespeare:** students will answer one question on the play they have studied (*Romeo and Juliet*). They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. **Section B The 19<sup>th</sup>-century novel:** students will answer one question on the novel they have studied (*A Christmas Carol*). They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.
- **Paper 2: *Modern Texts and Poetry*** – 2 hours and 15 minutes, and worth 60% of the overall GCSE. **Section A Modern texts:** students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on the text they have studied (*An Inspector Calls*). **Section B Poetry:** students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from the 15 poems in the *Power and Conflict* anthology. **Section C Unseen poetry:** Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

## ASSESSMENT

- Two terminal examinations taken at the end of the two-year course (Year 11).
- **Paper 1: *Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> century novel*** – 1 hour 45 minutes, and worth 40% of the overall GCSE.
- **Paper 2: *Modern Texts and Poetry*** – 2 hours and 15 minutes, and worth 60% of the overall GCSE.

## QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: AQA
- Specification: 8702

## POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

- Publishing
- Writer
- Journalism
- Media industry
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Public Relations
- Public sector
- Law
- Teacher
- Librarian

**SUBJECT LEAD: MRS R KEALY**

# GCSE MATHEMATICS



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

*"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." Malcolm X*

**Develop the mathematical thinking and reasoning to allow students to strategically solve problems and apply their mathematical knowledge in the real world.**

Students study Mathematics to gain essential skills, knowledge and develop a love for the subject. The Mathematics course allows students to reach their full potential by equipping them with the right skills that will be used in everyday life such as problem solving, reasoning, analysis and logical thinking.

## KEY TOPICS STUDIED

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

Within each area students are required to:

- Use and apply standard techniques/formulae
- Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically
- Solve problems within Mathematics and in other contexts.

## ASSESSMENT

Mathematics is assessed only by examination at the end of the course in Year 11. There are two tiers of entry: Higher (aimed at grades 4-9) and Foundation (aimed at grades 1-5). Each tier consists of three papers. Each paper is 1.5 hours long. The first paper is non-calculator and the remaining two are calculator papers. All three papers carry an equal weighting and a single grade is awarded at the end of the course.

The Mathematics GCSE course provides a solid foundation of knowledge and understanding in the subject, whilst also developing the real life application.

## QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: AQA
- Specification: 8300

## POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

- Accountant
- Actuary
- Analyst
- Banking
- Computer programmer
- Computing
- Financial Advisor
- Finance Manager
- Engineer
- Game Designer
- Insurance Broker
- Software Developer
- Statistician
- Surveyor
- Teacher

**HEAD OF MATHEMATICS: MS B VAGHELA**



# GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

*"Scientists have become the bearers of the torch of discovery in our quest for knowledge." Stephen Hawking*

**Develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around us and explore the way everything interconnects.**

Students study the content of GCSE Science, which helps them make sense of the science they come across in everyday life. They develop inquiring minds and come to appreciate how science and technology affect their lives, environment and the Universe.

Students achieve two GCSE grades, with marks from each science (biology, chemistry and physics) combined to define an overall double grade. The overall grades are determined through linear examinations at the end of Year 11.

The content of the course includes 21 core practicals studied in class. Practical skills are assessed through the written assessment in the final Year 11 examinations.

## KEY TOPICS STUDIED

- **BIOLOGY:**
  - **PAPER 1:** Cell biology, organisation, infection and response and bioenergetics.
  - **PAPER 2:** Homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.
- **CHEMISTRY:**
  - **PAPER 1:** Atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes and energy changes.
  - **PAPER 2:** The rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.
- **PHYSICS:**
  - **PAPER 1:** Energy, electricity, particle model of matter and atomic structure.
  - **PAPER 2:** Forces and motion, waves and magnetism.

## ASSESSMENT

AQA Trilogy GCSE (9-1) in Combined Science consists of six externally examined papers. These papers are available at foundation tier (grades 1 to 5) and higher tier (grades 5 to 9).

Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes in duration (70 marks per paper) and consists of a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. The written papers examine fact recall, application of understanding, evaluation, practical apparatus and techniques and working scientifically skills.

GCSEs in Combined Science allow progression to a number of A Level and college courses. The course provides a solid foundation of knowledge and understanding in the subject, whilst also developing practical skills.

## QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: AQA
- Specification: 8464  
[Trilogy]

## POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

- Astronomer
- Biochemist
- Dentist
- Doctor
- Engineer
- Forensic scientist
- Optician
- Paramedic
- Pharmacist
- Physiotherapist
- Science researcher
- Sports science
- Teacher
- Veterinary surgeon
- Zoologist

**HEAD OF SCIENCE: MISS K PATEL**



# GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCES



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

*"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." Marie Curie*

**Develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around us and explore the way everything interconnects.**

Students study the content of GCSE Science, which helps them make sense of the science they come across in everyday life. They develop inquiring minds and come to appreciate how science and technology affect their lives, environment and the Universe.

Students achieve a separate GCSE grade in each of the three sciences – one in biology, another in chemistry and the third in physics. The overall grade for each separate science GCSE is calculated through linear examinations at the end of Year 11.

The content of the course includes 28 core practicals studied in class. Practical skills are assessed through the written assessment, incorporated into each of the individual Year 11 examinations.

## KEY TOPICS STUDIED

### • BIOLOGY:

- **PAPER 1:** Cell biology, organisation, infection and response and bioenergetics.
- **PAPER 2:** Homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.

### • CHEMISTRY:

- **PAPER 1:** Atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes and energy changes.
- **PAPER 2:** The rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.

### • PHYSICS:

- **PAPER 1:** Energy, electricity, particle model of matter and atomic structure.
- **PAPER 2:** Forces and motion, waves and magnetism.

## ASSESSMENT

AQA GCSE (9-1) in biology, chemistry and physics consists of two externally examined papers for each GCSE. These papers are available at foundation tier (grades 1 to 5) and higher tier (grades 5 to 9).

Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes in duration (100 marks per paper) and consists of a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. The written papers examine fact recall, application of understanding, evaluation, practical apparatus and techniques and working scientifically skills.

GCSEs in Separate Sciences allow progression to a number of A Level and college courses. The course provides a solid foundation of knowledge and understanding in the subject, whilst also developing practical skills.

## QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: AQA
- Specification:  
8461 8462 8463

## POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

- Astronomer
- Biochemist
- Dentist
- Doctor
- Engineer
- Forensic scientist
- Optician
- Paramedic
- Pharmacist
- Physiotherapist
- Science researcher
- Sports science
- Teacher
- Veterinary surgeon
- Zoologist

**HEAD OF SCIENCE: MISS K PATEL**

# GCSE HISTORY



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

*"We study history not to be clever in another time, but to be wise always." Marcus Tullius Cicero*

**Foster a sense of wonder and enlighten students about the world by becoming independent critical thinkers**

The History GCSE curriculum provides students with opportunities to study significant people, events and development to reveal the wider world including social, economic, political, religious and military aspects of society. History teaches students to think critically and challenge what they are being told to help them make their own independent, rational decisions.

## KEY TOPICS STUDIED:

- **Medicine in Britain, c1250-Present:**
  - Causes of disease and illnesses
  - Approaches to prevention and treatment
  - Medicine on the Western Front, 1914-1918
- **Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060-1088:**
  - Anglo-Saxon society, Edward the Confessor, rival claims to the throne
  - The Norman Invasion and the Battle of Hastings
  - Norman England – feudal system, the Church, Domesday Book
- **American West, c1835-1895:**
  - **Early settlement:** Plains Indians, migration, settlement and conflict
  - **Development of the plains:** Civil War, changes for Plains Indians
  - **Conflict and Conquest:** Law and Order, the range wars, destructions of the Plains Indians way of life
- **Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939:**
  - **The Weimar Republic, 1918-29:** challenges to the Weimar Republic, changes in Germany after First World War
  - **Hitler's rise to power, 1919-33:** the Nazi Party, Munich Putsch, growth in Nazi support
  - **Nazi dictatorship, 1933-39:** Reichstag Fire, the police state, Nazi control and opposition to Nazis
  - **Life in Nazi Germany, 1933-39:** Women, young, employment and persecution of minorities

## ASSESSMENT

Edexcel History consists of three externally examined papers. The total qualification mark is 168, students can achieve GCSE grades 1 to 9.

- **PAPER 1:** Medicine in Britain, c1250-Present. 1hr 15 mins. 52 Marks (30% of qualification)
- **PAPER 2:** Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1066-1088 and American West, c1835-1895. 1hr 45 mins. 64 Marks (40% of qualification)
- **PAPER 3:** Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939. 1 hr 20 mins. 52 Marks (30% of qualification).

A GCSE in History allows progression to a number of A Level and university courses. The course provides a solid foundation of knowledge and understanding in the subject, whilst also developing transferable skills.

## QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: EDEXCEL
- Specification: 1HI0

## POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

- Archaeologist
- Broadcast journalist
- Business management
- Civil Service
- Economics
- Film Production
- Financial analysts
- Heritage manager
- Journalism
- Law
- Librarian
- Marketing executive
- Politician
- Public sector
- Researcher
- Solicitor
- Teacher

**HEAD OF HUMANITIES: MR D CLARKE**

# GCSE GEOGRAPHY



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

*“The study of **geography** is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.” Barack Obama*

**Foster a sense of wonder and enlighten students about the world by becoming independent critical thinkers.**

Through our Geography curriculum, students will learn about the world's diversity of environments and cultures. They will gain a greater understanding of the complexity of both human and physical processes. They will also learn how mankind is changing our planet and how we can minimise the impact of this change.

This exciting GCSE course is based on a balanced framework of physical and human geography. It allows students to investigate the link between the two themes, and approach and examine the battles between the man-made and natural worlds. Students who complete the course will have the skills and experience to progress onto A-level and beyond.

## KEY TOPICS STUDIED

### UNIT 1. Living with the physical environment

Section A. The challenge of natural hazards

Section B. The living world

Section C. Physical landscapes in the UK

### UNIT 2. Challenges in the human environment

Section A. Urban issues and challenges

Section B. The changing economic world

Section C. The challenge of resource management

### UNIT 3. Geographical Applications

Section A. Issue Evaluation

Section B. Fieldwork

### UNIT 4. Geographical Skills

## ASSESSMENT

**Paper 1:** Living with the Physical Environment. Written Exam. 1hr 30 mins. 88 Marks (35% of qualification)

**Paper 2:** Challenges in the Human Environment. Written Exam. 1hr 30 mins. 88 Marks (35% of qualification)

**Paper 3** Geographical Applications. Written Exam. 1 hr 15 mins. 76 Marks (30% of qualification).

Pre-release material made available 12 weeks before paper 3 exam. Includes questions on fieldwork carried out by students.

**Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar:** 3 marks in papers 1 & 2 and 6 marks in paper 3.

**All Papers** include multiple-choice, short answer, levelled response and extended prose questions.

## QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: AQA
- Specification: 8035

## POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

- Cartographer
- Town Planning
- Surveyor
- Environmental Consultant
- Sustainability Consultant
- Transport Planner
- Remote Sensing Analyst
- Hydrologist
- Meteorologist

**HEAD OF HUMANITIES: MR D CLARKE**



# GCSE SPANISH

*"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."*

**Nelson Mandela**



**AVANTI FIELDS**  
SCHOOL

**Instil a sustained love of language learning, explore different customs and cultures and deepen all students understanding and appreciation of the world around them.**

The AQA GCSE Spanish specification is designed to ensure the assessments are clear and accessible, with a range of topics, which aim to expand students' cultural knowledge. Students will be tested in listening, reading, speaking and writing and will develop transferable skills, relevant to further study and the world of work. The range of topics within the specification aims to inspire students who are interested in Spanish culture and Spanish speaking countries.

Students studying AQA GCSE Spanish course will have three language lessons per week in Year 10 and 11. Throughout the two year course, students will learn key vocabulary, structures and high frequency language for all skills and themes. All students will study a range of interesting topics and are consistently supported with a range of appropriate resources and online learning to enhance language acquisition, retention and retrieval.

Languages are an integral part of prestigious EBacc measure and Spanish will offer a structured and fun GCSE.

## KEY TOPICS STUDIED

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

- Theme 1: Identity and culture
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

## ASSESSMENT

### Higher /Foundation GCSE

This course is divided into four skills , writing, reading, speaking and listening. All four skills are examined separately.

All students will sit a final exam in each of the four skills.

### Writing exam 25%

- Higher tier 1 hour 15 minutes Foundation tier 1 hour

### Speaking exam 25%

- Higher tier 10-12 minutes Foundation tier 7-9 minutes

### Reading exam 25%

- Higher tier 1 hour Foundation tier 45 minutes

### Listening exam 25%

- Higher tier 45 minutes Foundation tier 35 minutes

## QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: AQA
- Specification: 8698

## POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

- Travel & tourism industry
- Interpreting/translation
- International business and marketing
- International law
- Medicine, Science
- Education , teaching

**Learning a foreign language can enhance any career choice**

*"We live in global society ... English is simply no longer enough!"*

**SUBJECT LEAD: MRS S KURTH**



# GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

*“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.” Albert Einstein*



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

The GCSE builds on the foundations of our KS3 PRE curriculum, which has a strong Hindu focus whilst also embracing comparative study from all of the world's major religions and philosophical traditions.

Closely aligned to the 2010 Non-Statutory Curriculum Framework for Religious Education and 2013 A Curriculum Framework for Religious Education in England, the learning is categorised into four aspects: knowledge, critical thought, application and experience:

## Knowledge

- Learning from and about religious philosophical concepts drawing from the Hindu and Christian traditions

## Critical thought

- Teaching students how to construct arguments and debate (in written and oral ways), with critical analysis as essential
- Teaching students to become skillful and articulate questioners, able to question 'blind faith', common assumptions or held views.

## Application

- Applying learning and skills to ethical and moral dilemmas
- Debating and questioning 'big' philosophical questions and problems.

## Experience

- Experiencing religious life in real contexts
- Learning about different religious rituals, festivals and ways of life

## KEY TOPICS STUDIED

GCSE in Religious Studies will culminate in the choice of a specification, which allows students to demonstrate what they know and understand from the Hindu and Christian tradition alongside a broader assessment of philosophy and ethics influencing those of all religions and none.

### Paper 1 – The Study of Two Religions: Hinduism and Christianity

Beliefs and teachings

Practices

### Paper 2 – Thematic Studies

Relationships and Families

Religion and Life

Religion, peace and conflict

Religion, crime and punishment

## ASSESSMENT

There are two exams at the end of Year 11. Each paper is one hour forty-five minutes long, and is each worth 50% of the GCSE. Each paper has a range of multiple choice, short answer, and essay-style questions.

## QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: AQA
- Specification: 8062

## POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

First and foremost, RS will offer a life skill in ethical decision making and critical thinking.

RS at GCSE will provide a good basis for study post-16 and on into positions in people-orientated career pathways. Some examples include:

- Teaching
- Administration
- Consultation
- Law
- Communications
- Social services
- Public services

**SUBJECT LEAD: MR P GAJJAR**

# GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

*"I didn't get there by wishing for it or hoping for it, but by working for it."*  
**Estee Lauder**

**Equips students with the skills and confidence to explore how different business situations affect business decisions**

Students study business concepts, terminology, objectives, the integrated nature of business activity and its impacts on individuals and wider society.

Students are given opportunities to analyse and evaluate contemporary business issues in local, national and global contexts. They develop an understanding of entrepreneurship and draw on evidence to make informed business decisions.

In this way, students develop their abilities to construct well-argued, well-evidenced, balanced and structured arguments demonstrating their business knowledge and understanding.

## KEY TOPICS STUDIED

### Paper 1: Business Activity, Marketing and People

- The role of enterprise and entrepreneurs; business planning; business ownership; stakeholders; business growth
- Marketing; market research; segmentation; the Marketing Mix
- Human Resources; Organisational Structures; Communication; Recruitment & Selection; Motivation & Retention; Training & Development; Employment Law

### Paper 2: Operations, Finance and Influences on Business

- Production processes; Quality of goods and services; The sales process; Customer Service; Consumer Law; Business Location; Working with suppliers
- The finance function; sources of finance; revenue & costs; profit & loss; break-even; cash and cashflow
- Ethical and environmental considerations; the economic climate; globalisation

## ASSESSMENT

There are 2 compulsory exams, each worth 50% of the overall qualification.

Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes and is marked out of 80.

All questions are mandatory.

**Paper 1:** Business 1: Business Activity, Marketing & People

**Paper 2:** Business 2: Operations, Finance & Influences on Business

## QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: OCR
- Specification: J204

## POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

- Entrepreneur
- Sales
- Marketing
- Business Analyst
- Accounting
- Market Research
- Human Resources
- Production
- Management
- Finance

**SUBJECT LEAD: MR J CLAMPIN**

# GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

*"We're changing the world with technology." Bill Gates*

## Develop an appreciation of computing technology and develop logical reasoning and problem-solving skills

Students study and apply the fundamental concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation.

Students also design, create, debug and review computer programs. This develops their ability to think creatively, analytically and critically.

Furthermore, students will understand the components that make up digital systems and the impacts of technology on wider society and the environment.

## KEY TOPICS STUDIED

### Paper 1: Computer Systems

- Systems Architecture; Memory and Storage; Computer Networks
- Network Security; Systems Software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

### Paper 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

- Algorithms; Programming Fundamentals; Producing Robust Programs; Boolean Logic; Programming Languages; Integrated Development Environments
- Practical Programming

## ASSESSMENT

There are 2 compulsory exams – each worth 50% of the overall qualification.

Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes and is marked out of 80.

All questions are mandatory.

Paper 1: Computer Systems

Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming.

## QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: OCR
- Specification: J277

## POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

- Computer Programmer
- Cyber Security
- Network Technician
- IT Support
- Gaming Designer
- Quality Assurance
- Software Sales
- App Development
- Games Tester
- Website Development

**SUBJECT LEAD: MR J CLAMPIN**

# GCSE ART & DESIGN



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

*"To be an artist is to believe in life." Henry Moore*

## Develop visual literacy so that we can appreciate the rich diversity of art and design within our world.

Art enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills.

No matter what career you choose, those who can think flexibly and are creative problem solvers will excel.

### KEY UNITS STUDIED

Themed units are worked through covering all of the 4 following assessment objectives.

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

Themes are extremely flexible and students are encouraged to demonstrate their skills and ideas in ways that interest them most. All work completed in years 10 and 11 count towards final GCSE grade, therefore students need to complete all pieces on time. Students will be expected to maximise their independent learning time to extend on classroom assignments.

### ASSESSMENT

- **Component 1 (portfolio):** Students develop responses to each unit of work and gradually produce a portfolio of work worth 60% of final GCSE grade.
- **Component 2 (externally set assignment):** In January of year 11, students are set a starting point provided by AQA. They then produce preparatory work in preparation for their art final pieces following the strategies used in the earlier units studied. During the examination period students then have 10 hours supervised time to use their preparation to complete final pieces for assessment. This is worth 40% of final GCSE grade.

### QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: AQA
- Specification: 8202

### POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

- Video game designer
- Digital illustrator
- Architect
- Artist
- Web designer
- Art Director
- Graphic designer
- Animator

**SUBJECT LEAD: MRS S MARSHALL**



# GCSE DRAMA



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

*"Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it."* Augusto Boal

**To develop skills that help promote their confidence, literacy, social understanding and future employment prospects.**

Drama is a demanding GCSE that explores both the practical and theoretical aspects of performance. This course will develop **performance skills**, particularly voice and body language. The close examination of **characters** and **societal issues** enhances students' **empathy**.

**Presentational skills** will develop young people's **confidence** and make sure that they stand out from their peers. These are skills that not only help in GCSE Drama but can support interviews and careers where **social interaction** and presentations are at the forefront.

A large portion of this course is **analytical** and involves writing essays. Additionally, GCSE Drama is **collaborative**, relying on group work and additional rehearsals after school.

## KEY TOPICS STUDIED

- **Component 1 – Devising Theatre.** Students will create their own work with influence from a chosen practitioner (Artaud, Bausch, Berkoff, Boal and Brecht). The piece will be developed based off a stimulus given by the exam board. The final exam will be performed to a live audience of parents after school.
- **Component 2 – Performing a Text.** Performing 2 extracts from a published play in front of an external examiner. These texts will be challenging and for top band performances, will examine difficult and at times sensitive material. Parents will be invited to watch the performances a week before the final exam to offer feedback.
- **Component 3 – Interpreting Texts.** Students will analyse the text DNA by Dennis Kelly, which focuses on socio-economic themes, gang violence and teenage pressures. This will be the set text for the written exam where they will justify decisions in character motivation and set/lighting/sound design. The Drama department will arrange a live theatre visit, which students will analyse in their written exam.

## ASSESSMENT

- **CO1 – (40% of GCSE).** Students will create a portfolio of evidence (30 marks) to demonstrate their devising process and complete a 90 minute evaluation (15 marks) of the final performance (15 marks) under exam conditions – Total of 60 marks, which is double weighted.
- **CO2 – (20% of GCSE).** 60 mark performance and no written component.
- **CO3 – (40% of GCSE).** 90 minute formal written examinations. Section A – 45 marks: Analysing the chosen set text over 5 questions. Section B – 15 marks: Analysing a live performance – Total of 60 marks which is double weighted.

## QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: Eduqas
- Specification: C690QS

## POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

- Actor
- Director
- Theatre Manager
- Scenographer
- Playwright
- Educational Director for a theatre company
- Youth Theatre Director

## CAREERS SUPPORTED BY DRAMA SKILLS

- Teacher
- Lawyer
- Politician
- Business Managers
- Architects
- Doctors

**SUBJET LEAD: MISS R MORGAN**

# GCSE MEDIA STUDIES



AVANTI FIELDS  
SCHOOL

*"How we are seen determines in part how we are treated; how we treat others is based on how we see them; such seeing comes from representation."*

**Richard Dyer**

Enthuse students to have a keen and critical eye when it comes to reading media texts.

The media play a central role in contemporary society and culture. They shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, viewpoints and messages they offer. The media have real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society. The economic importance of the media is also unquestionable.

The media industries employ large numbers of people worldwide and operate as commercial industries on a global scale. The global nature of the contemporary media, coupled with ongoing technological developments and more opportunities to interact with the media, suggest that their centrality in contemporary life can only increase. Learners will draw on their existing experience of the media, but will also extend their appreciation and critical understanding through the study of products with which they may be less familiar, including products for different audiences. The subject recognises the fundamental relationship between theoretical understanding and practical work, providing learners with exciting opportunities to develop media production skills.

## KEY TOPICS STUDIED

- **Re-presentation**  
The ways in which the media re-present (rather than simply present) the world, and construct versions of reality.
- Theoretical perspectives on representation, including processes of selection, construction and mediation.
- **Stereotypes**
- The different functions and uses of stereotypes:
  - How stereotypes become established.
  - How stereotypes may vary over time.
  - Positive and negative stereotypes.
  - How stereotypes enable audiences to interpret media quickly.
- **Social, cultural and political significance**
- The social, cultural and political significance of particular representations in terms of the themes or issues that they address.

## ASSESSMENT

The Media Studies assessment allows students to demonstrate their understanding of key media concepts, theories, and conventions through combination of media production and examination. The break down of students marks:

- 70% Exam
- 30% NEA (non-exam assessment)

The NEA is based a selection of briefs given by the exam board, which the students have to implement into their own original production. Options will include moving and non-moving production pieces, from print based magazine covers, to opening scenes and trailers.

## QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: AQA
- Specification: 8572

## POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS

- Journalism
- Film production
- Editor
- Director
- Media critic
- Teacher
- HR
- Event management
- Market researcher
- Media presenter
- Media researcher
- Public relations
- Press manager
- Web content manager
- Social media manager
- Writer
- Media planner